

*Embracing
Technology*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

2007-2008



Steve Cooley | District Attorney

*Advancing
Justice
Achieving Excellence*

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

GENERAL MANAGEMENT STAFF



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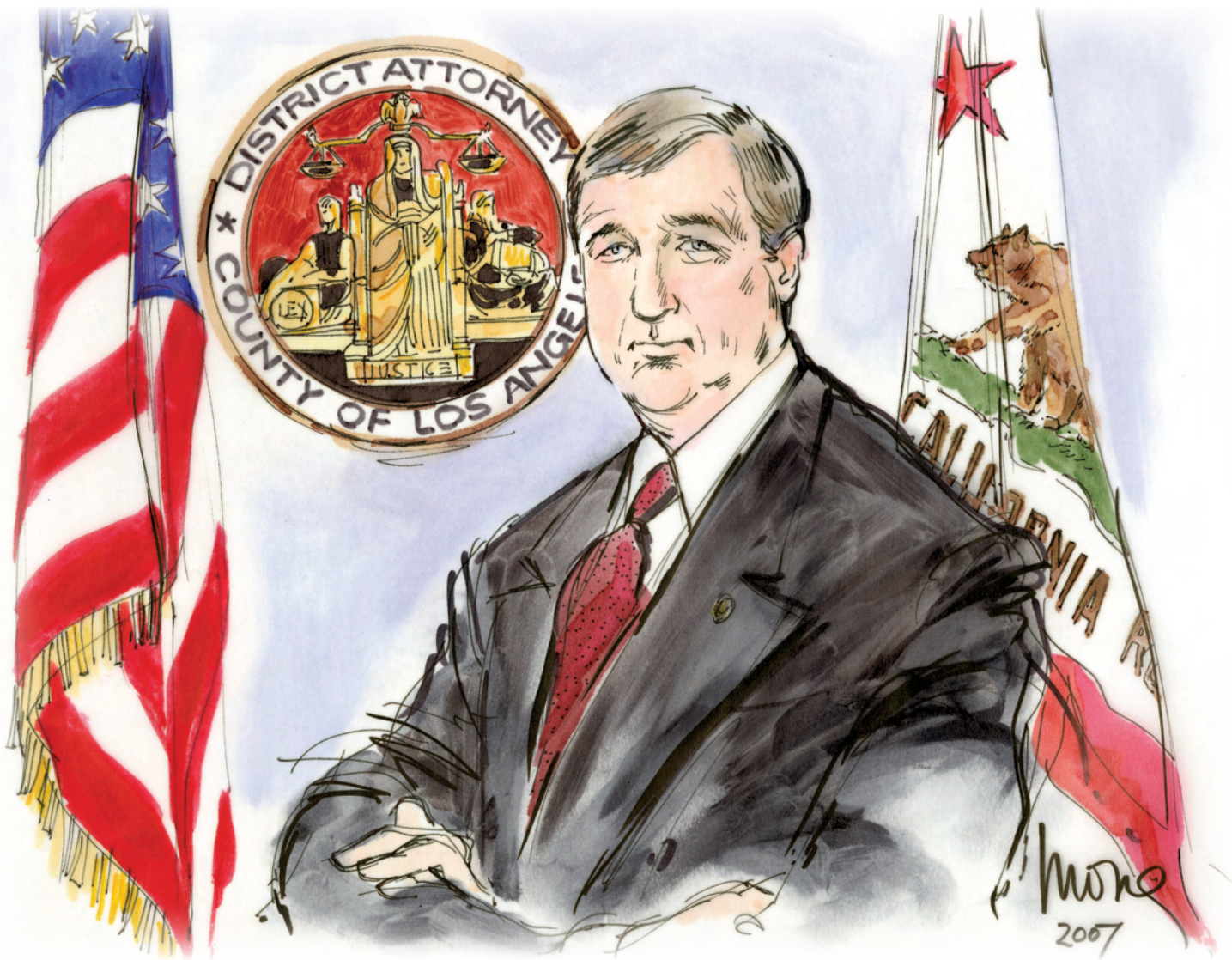
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Steve Cooley

Steve Cooley, Los Angeles County District Attorney

Message from the District Attorney

There were no computers in the District Attorney's Office when I was hired in 1973. Onionskin paper and Wite-Out were the norm. Phones were not mobile. Research meant hours plowing through dusty volumes in the law library. Memos were delivered by hand. Messages were teletyped, not texted.

Now, advances in technology have made talking on the phone, researching a topic and sending a memo as easy as pressing a button. In fact, more people will probably read this report on a computer screen than will handle a paper copy.

The Report to the People 2007-2008 highlights recent advances in the Digital Age that forever have changed how the District Attorney's Office serves the residents of Los Angeles County – from developments in DNA analysis technology to improvements in the ability to review case files.

New technology has brought greater challenges to law enforcement. The office has worked to stay on the cutting edge of high-technology crimes by providing training to peace officers and prosecutors so these new crime trends can be spotted on the streets and on hard drives.

One recent accomplishment highlighted in this report is the creation of the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI), which provides high-quality training through the office's staff of nationally recognized experts to advance public safety. In less than two years, CJI has become recognized as a leading source of continuing education and professional development for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other criminal justice professionals.

This report also recounts the formation of the office's Animal Cruelty Prosecution Program – the first of its kind in the nation – which was created to make sure animal cruelty and neglect cases are prosecuted consistently and effectively throughout the county.

Also described in the report are collaborative efforts the office has undertaken with federal authorities. Under an initiative with the U.S. Attorney's Office, deputy district attorneys have been cross-designated to serve as assistant U.S. attorneys to target transnational gang members and other felons who illegally and repeatedly enter the United States. In addition, under a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs, a deputy district attorney was assigned to Washington, D.C., to help expedite the extradition of criminals from Mexico to California.

This report details some of the office's high-profile successes in the past two years – such as the extradition and conviction of the murderer of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy David March and the conviction of the man who ordered the 1988 killings of racing legend Mickey Thompson and his wife, Trudy. Also highlighted are some of the lesser-known but equally hard-fought victories by prosecutors who have been lauded by their peers as Deputy District Attorneys of the Month.

In June 2008, I had the good fortune of becoming the first Los Angeles County District Attorney in more than 70 years to be re-elected to a third consecutive term. I can absolutely credit that success to the outstanding efforts of the prosecutors, investigators and support and clerical staff who, day in and day out, do their best for the residents of Los Angeles County. I am deeply honored to lead the District Attorney's Office for the next four years.

Mia Baker

Innovator, Advocate, Inspiration

A tenacious defender of crime victims' rights. A concerned advocate who worked tirelessly to bring services to those who have been victimized. An innovator who helped usher the District Attorney's Office into the 21st century. A gracious host. A marvelous cook. A skilled gardener. A world traveler. A beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Mia Baker was all those things and much more.

For the drive, compassion and pioneering spirit that she brought to each of her endeavors, this report is dedicated to Mia, who served in the District Attorney's Office for 22 years and died on Dec. 5, 2007, after a valiant battle with cancer.

Even before she joined the office, she helped create its Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) and was

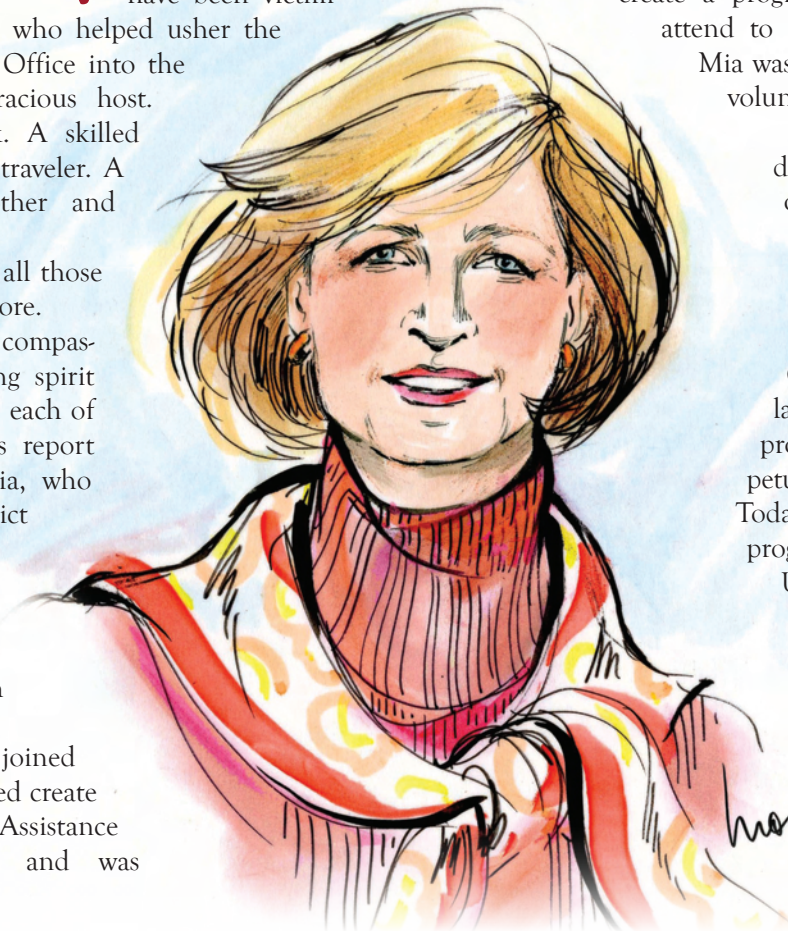
instrumental in protecting victims' rights.

In 1977, while volunteering with the Junior League of Los Angeles, Mia heard then-District Attorney John Van de Kamp speak about the plight of crime victims who had no rights or services. Mr.

Van de Kamp asked for volunteers to help create a program in the office to attend to crime victims' needs. Mia was selected to head that volunteer effort.

In what she later described as a "triumph of hope over experience," the volunteer group successfully established VWAP in the District Attorney's Office. Two years later, the state provided funding to perpetuate the group's efforts. Today, VWAP is the largest program of its kind in the United States.

In 1980, Mia went to work in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and headed its victim-witness program. She and her



colleagues at the time recognized a “victims’ movement,” which they saw as akin to the civil rights movement. There was a clear need to draft legislation to develop victims’ rights. Mia believed that she could achieve this goal and better serve victims and the general public as an attorney. She entered Southwestern University School of Law and graduated in 1984.

Mia was invited to join the District Attorney’s Office in 1985 to serve as director of VWAP. She developed new policies and programs that promoted crime victims’ rights and services. Her advocacy efforts expanded crime victim benefits provided by the California Victim Compensation Program. She also championed a formalized accreditation process, which later became law, for training victim/witness advocates in California. Mia was responsible for writing significant portions of California’s victim restitution law and the California Drug Endangered Child Protection Act.

Mia also was influential in the modernization of the office. In 1993, Mia became the office’s grants coordinator and special assistant to the director of the Bureau of Management and Budget. Through her efforts, the office was awarded millions of dollars in grants for criminal justice and crime prevention programs. Many of these programs received awards for innovation and excellence.

While working on a gang intervention program, Mia met her future husband, Edmund “Mike” Aleks. They married in 1991, while Mr. Aleks was a captain with the District Attorney’s Bureau of Investigation. He has since retired. Mia had two sons, Robert and Randy, and two grandchildren, Caitlin and McKenzie, whom she cherished.

While Mia drew encouragement from others, she

likewise was a source of inspiration and mentored many colleagues and friends. She held herself to the highest standards of excellence.

To honor her spirit and diligence, the District Attorney’s Office created the Mia Baker Victim Advocacy Award in 2008. Its first recipient was retired Victim Services Representative Norma O’Dell.

When Mia was not in the office, she was an expert gardener who could lose herself for hours at a time working the soil.

Those who had the good fortune of being a guest in her home knew that Mia was also an accomplished cook who seemed to turn out gourmet meals nightly. She would regularly travel to Italy in the late summertime to attend cooking classes.

She also was a fitness buff who exercised regularly. An avid hiker, she would lead Saturday afternoon treks to the ocean on the Palos Verdes Peninsula with members of her church.

In an interview published in the March 2007 edition of the Stanford Professional Women of Los Angeles News-

letter, Mia said she took her personal motto from a cartoon years ago that stated: “If the going’s getting easier, you ain’t climbing.”

“In public service, there are often so many setbacks,” she said. “It takes real dogged persistence to accomplish anything. And there are so many compromises along the way; you can begin to wonder whether the effort is worthwhile. In the victims’ program, we had to fight so hard for every minute gain – it was very discouraging at times. However, victims today have legal rights that everyone takes for granted. The challenges are there to inspire us to do our best work.”

Mia Baker remains an inspiration.



Mia Baker with her husband, Edmund “Mike” Aleks

Embracing Technology

NEW TECHNOLOGY CREATES OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES

The dawn of the 21st century has brought a dizzying array of technological advances. From e-mail, which has made communication infinitely easier, to mobile telephones that can take pictures and instantly access the Internet – the conveniences of today were unfathomable just a few decades ago.

Such developments also have had a significant impact on the District Attorney's Office, generating new challenges and opportunities to advance justice.

New technology has changed how the District Attorney's Office operates on a day-to-day basis and increased the ability to work more efficiently – be it sorting through case files, reading an office policy manual or watching a training session on a computer.

The effect of technological progress on prosecutions has been pronounced. Developments in DNA technology have meant that more and better evidence is available to secure convictions or determine the innocence of individuals. In addition, the advances have brought justice to crime victims in cases once believed to be unsolvable.

But the challenges created by new technology are plentiful. Computer crime and identity theft are the fastest growing forms of fraud in Los Angeles County. Criminal enterprises now execute scams by simply punching a few buttons. Sexual predators lurk in Internet chat rooms and on social-networking sites looking for potential victims. Stopping these criminals requires law enforcement and prosecutors to keep up with technological developments.

Beatriz Dieringer | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • January 2007

Deputy District Attorneys of the Month are selected by their peers. The nomination and selection process is coordinated by the Association of Deputy District Attorneys.

Beatriz Dieringer received this award for the resolve she demonstrated in the handling of a ghastly 15-year-old sexual assault case.

In 1991, two women were kidnapped at gunpoint by Fernando Maldonado and another man and forced to drive to Maldonado's apartment. Once there, two other men joined them. For the next six hours, the four men repeatedly raped and committed other violent sexual offenses against their victims. One of the criminals, Julian Chacon, was apprehended later that year. Ms. Dieringer was assigned to the case in 1993 and tried Chacon in 1994. After being convicted by a jury of numerous crimes stemming from the incident, Chacon was sentenced to 225 years in state prison.

The case was dormant until 2002 when Maldonado finally was arrested. At that time, Ms. Dieringer was assigned to the Welfare Fraud Division. Knowing her familiarity with this complex case would be a tremendous asset,



HIGH TECHNOLOGY CRIME DIVISION

The District Attorney's High Technology Crime Division has led the way in curtailing the wave of identity theft and other cybercrimes that can turn people's lives upside down and potentially cause havoc in the streets.

The division's specially trained prosecutors and investigators help instruct and assist task forces and agencies in identifying and stopping these crimes. They also work to deter street-level crimes through aggressive prosecution.

In Los Angeles County in 2007, there were 39,104 police reports filed involving the theft of personal identification information, proprietary information and intellectual property – a 33-percent hike from 2006.

In 2008, district attorney investigators uncovered one such high-tech scam involving a crew of thieves who used electronic devices to tap into the accounts of unsuspecting customers who used Wells Fargo Bank automated teller machines (ATMs). The fraud cost the bank \$371,619 and affected 260 customers.

The crime involved the theft and replacement of personal identification number (PIN) pads from supermarket bank kiosks. The modified PIN pads

captured customer debit card numbers and PINs, enabling the defendants to manufacture encoded cards that were used to withdraw cash from ATMs on the East Coast and in California.

Akop Kantrdzyan, Avetis Atalaryan and Andranik Taschyan were taken into custody and charged in a 99-count complaint. Taschyan pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison. A fourth man, Tigran Gadyan, is believed to have fled the country.

The District Attorney's Office also successfully prosecuted two Los Angeles city traffic engineers who admitted hacking into a city traffic center computer that controls traffic lights. Their actions caused severe tie-ups at four key intersections in August 2006.

The two city employees, Gabriel Murillo and Kartik Patel, each pleaded guilty on Nov. 5, 2008, to one felony count of illegally accessing a city computer. They were both engineers at the city's Automated Traffic Surveillance Center, where traffic signal timing can be altered to manage traffic volume. The illegal access occurred hours before a job action by members of the Engineers and Architects Association, which represents the engineers who run and maintain the traffic center. It took four days to get the traffic computer system fully operational. Fortunately, no accidents were reported.



The High Technology Crime Division has prosecuted cases involving the hacking of traffic signal computers and rigged automated teller machines.

she unhesitatingly volunteered to handle Maldonado's prosecution. The passage of time, the marginal cooperation of the victims and the loss of many investigative records were just some of the challenges the case posed during the October-November 2006 jury trial. Also, there were traces of cocaine found in fluids taken from the victims, a fact that bolstered the defense's contention that the sex was consensual and involved an exchange for drugs.

In the end, Ms. Dieringer's determination and dedication to the case were rewarded. The defendant was convicted of 100 of the 101 counts with which he was charged, along with 320 special allegations. He was sentenced to 862 years in prison. It was one of the lengthiest terms ever meted out for such offenses committed before revisions to sex crime statutes were enacted more than a decade ago.

"The passion, commitment and perseverance which Bea Dieringer demonstrated in her tireless pursuit of justice are both exceptional and typical," Jane Blissert, head deputy of the Sex Crimes Division, wrote in nominating Ms. Dieringer. "Bea handled this case for a period of time spanning more than 10 years with unflagging energy and determination, seeing it through to its impressive conclusion. It is typical for Bea to apply the same high level of diligence, intelligence and drive to all of her endeavors."

Ms. Dieringer received a Bachelor of Arts in law enforcement from the University of Maryland and graduated from American University, Washington College of Law. She served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Justice Department from 1978 to 1980. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1980.

Embracing Technology

DNA USE EXPANDED

Less than four years after the passage of Proposition 69, The DNA Fingerprint, Unsolved Crime and Innocence Protection Act, the District Attorney's Office continues to promote innovative ways to utilize DNA analysis – arguably the most potent new law enforcement tool in decades.

While the utilization of DNA analysis in murder, sexual-assault and cold-case investigations has become common, technological advances have led to a wider range of crimes being prosecuted using biological evidence.

The office was among several agencies that participated in the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) DNA Field Experiment, a study that examined the effectiveness of DNA analysis on evidence from property crimes.

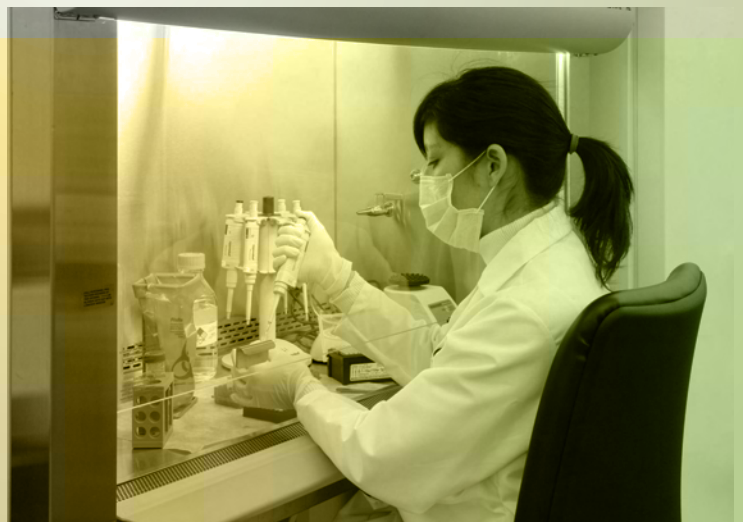
As part of the project, the Los Angeles Police Department's Valley Bureau was the test area for residential, commercial and auto burglaries. Nearly 200 cases were sent to the Orchid Cellmark laboratory in Dallas for DNA analysis. Seventy percent came up with successful DNA results.

The experiment connected 77 DNA profiles with biological evidence from crime scenes and produced 28 felony cases – 23 adult and five juvenile. All of the defendants except one pleaded guilty and were sentenced to state prison. The cases were handled by

the Van Nuys and San Fernando branch offices and the Sylmar Juvenile Office.

Nationally, the NIJ Field Experiment found that twice as many property crime suspects were identified and arrested when DNA evidence was collected – in addition to fingerprint evidence – compared to traditional property crime investigations. In addition, the experiment found that twice as many cases were accepted for prosecution when DNA evidence was processed.

Prosecutors in the District Attorneys' Office also saw some cases strengthened by what is known as "touch DNA," or the DNA from skin cells left behind when a person touches or comes into contact with an item.



Geoff Lewin | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • February 2007

G Geoff Lewin earned this honor for his outstanding work in an attempted double-murder case. The case involved two innocent people who encountered a dangerous criminal on the San Diego (405) Freeway in the early morning of Nov. 14, 2004. Even though the defendant, Sammy Lozano, did not know the victims, he fired a gun into their car, shattering the passenger-side window. The victims drove away as fast as they could with Lozano on their tail. The defendant was so intent on shooting these two people that he drove through an unpaved portion of the 405-Harbor (110) Freeway interchange to ram the victims' car.

The case had very difficult issues. It was tried three times. The first two trials ended with deadlocked juries strongly siding for convictions. The only eyewitness in the case was subsequently arrested on unrelated drug charges. This same witness ended up in a mental health facility following six suicide

For example, a violent sexual assault prosecution handled by the Sex Crimes Division was bolstered by touch-DNA evidence left by a defendant on a belt used to choke a victim. Hakem Rasheed Gipson was sentenced to 57 years to life in prison in that case.

Since Proposition 69's passage, California's convicted offender databank has grown to more than 1 million samples and continues to assist in the solving of decades-old sexual assaults, murders and other crimes.

One of the office's most notable DNA-driven prosecutions was against Barry Wendell Mosley, who was convicted and sentenced to die in 2008 for three murders, two rapes and the sexual assault and attempted murder of a child.

Mosley was a suspect in the April 1999 rape and strangulation murder of Bessie Carter, 17, and the murder of her mother, Shirley Austin, 54. But the type of DNA testing performed at that time did not conclusively link him to the attack, and he was not immediately charged.

Fortunately, the Mosley case proved to be a rare example of a criminal prosecution that actually improved with time. Biological evidence from the 1999 rapes and murders was preserved – including scrapings taken from underneath Ms. Austin's fingernails.

In June 2000, when fingerprint evidence connected Mosley to new crimes – the strangulation murder and sexual assault of Adrienne Reed, 29, and the sexual assault and attempted murder of her then-8-year-old daughter – investigators took a fresh look at the biological evidence in the Carter-Austin double-murder and rape case.

With the passage of time, more sophisticated methods of DNA analysis had become readily available and were used to re-examine the Carter-Austin evidence. The results nailed the case against Mosley.

Six months after he was charged in Ms. Reed's



Using testing methods not available in 1999 when the crimes were committed, Barry Wendell Mosley's DNA was found on the ligature that was used to strangle Bessie Carter.



murder, he also was charged with the Carter-Austin slayings and rape. DNA linked him to several other unsolved rapes in the South Los Angeles area.

Jurors took just two hours to recommend the death penalty for Mosley.

Additionally, the office maintained its leadership role with the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee's (CCJCC) Proposition 69 Implementation Task Force and its new DNA Task Force. District Attorney's Forensic Sciences Advisor Lisa Kahn chaired both groups.

attempts. Although he testified in the first trial, he was not available for the subsequent retrials. In addition, the firearm in the case was not held for fingerprints or ballistics, although it was seized at the crime scene.

In the make-or-break third trial, Mr. Lewin went to battle once again with a highly combative defense attorney. The defense counsel was so aggressive that a district attorney investigator was assigned to sit with Mr. Lewin during the trial. The courtroom bailiff hit the panic button on several occasions because of the defense attorney's behavior.

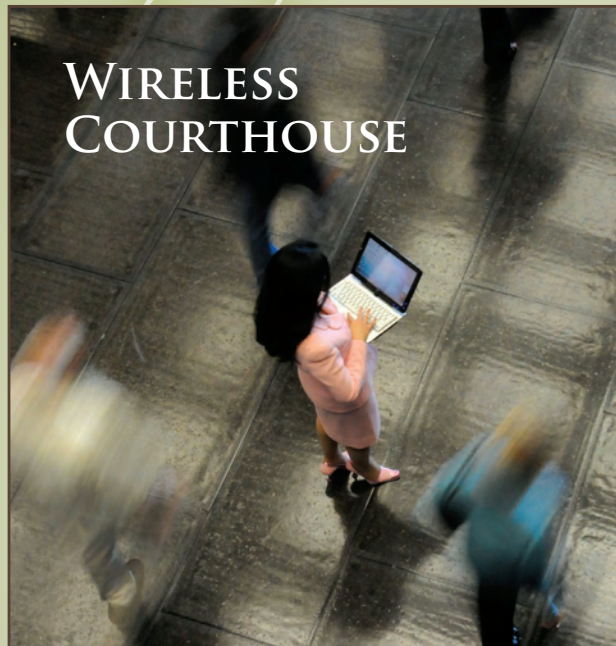
Mr. Lewin overcame the obstacles and a jury convicted the defendant on two counts of attempted murder and two counts of assault

with a firearm.

In addition, Mr. Lewin tried the most cases in the Compton Branch Office and spent the most days in trial during 2006. He has a reputation for taking on difficult and unusual cases and acts as a mentor to newer attorneys, providing encouragement and hands-on assistance.

Mr. Lewin graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science in psychology and later received his law degree there. He was a prosecutor in the Hawthorne City Attorney's Office before joining the District Attorney's Office in 1999.

Embracing Technology



WIRELESS COURTHOUSE

At the end of 2008, courtroom floors in the Foltz Criminal Justice Center were equipped with wireless Internet access, known as Wi-Fi, launching a pilot program for 21 deputy district attorneys. Rather than hoping to catch the courthouse's notoriously slow elevators or scrambling up stairs to reach their desktop computers, attorneys now may access the office's databases, their e-mail and law-related Web sites from specially equipped laptop computers without leaving the courtroom.

Attorneys participating in the pilot have reported a time savings of two to five hours per week and a reduction

in the number of requested trial continuances. They attribute these benefits to the fact that they have instant access to important case and criminal history information and are able to communicate directly with investigating officers and others during criminal proceedings.

"It's the smoothest transition I have ever been involved in," Deputy District Attorney Susan Powers said of her experience in the pilot program. "It's efficient. I've e-mailed detectives and gotten responses in court."

The pilot program was made possible, in large part, because Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer William Fujioka recognized the benefits to many county departments and helped fund and coordinate the effort with the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

VOICE MAIL HACKING INVESTIGATION

Voice mail has become a trusted communications tool, and cellular phone users expect that their messages will be entirely private and secure. So when a New Jersey firm's SpoofCard hacking software threatened to undermine the very security and reliability of this technology, the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation led the charge to probe the case and stop the menace throughout California.

The investigation began in 2007 after a victim complained of unauthorized access to cell phone voice mail. The District Attorney's High Technology Crime and Consumer Protection divisions joined forces in a comprehensive probe that revealed just how vulnerable some cellular phone systems were to dangerous hacking.



Geanene Yriarte | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • March 2007

The odds seemed stacked against Geanene Yriarte. But her ability to prevail in the complicated double-murder trial of Edgar Bautista helped her garner this honor.

A jury in Bautista's first trial deadlocked with eight of the 12 jurors voting not guilty. The judge released Bautista on bail, stating that she believed a finding of guilt would be impossible. The judge openly criticized the District Attorney's Office for retrying the case. On top of this, it was Ms. Yriarte's first murder trial.

The case stemmed from the Sept. 27, 2004, shooting of two gang members. Bautista, who was 15 at the time of the shooting, and another suspect went on a mission to kill two rival gang members. Bautista shot both of them in the back of the head and fled. No physical evidence linking him to the crime was discovered. After his capture, the defendant denied any involvement in the murders. Moreover, he significantly changed his appearance during the first and second trials to look like a picture-perfect schoolboy.

The case rested on the testimony of teenage witnesses who were walking past the victims when the shootings occurred. No witness came to court and identified the defendant as the shooter. Ms. Yriarte's best witness

With a series of civil enforcement actions filed in December 2008, the District Attorney's Office obtained permanent injunctions that forced SpoofCard's maker, TelTech Systems, Inc., to pay \$33,000 in penalties and investigation costs. More importantly, the company, which had touted SpoofCard as "legal in 50 states," was ordered to stop false advertising about the legality of its hacker software in California.

In addition, cellular phone companies AT&T Mobility, LLC, of Atlanta, and T-Mobile USA, of Bellevue, Wash., whose systems were shown to be easily sabotaged, also were fined and barred from making specific misrepresentations about the security of their cell phone systems. AT&T agreed to pay \$59,300 and T-Mobile \$25,000 in costs and civil penalties. Each of the firms has taken corrective action.

ELECTRONIC SUBPOENAS

The District Attorney's Office has said goodbye to the era when it took days to locate police officers and serve them with paper subpoenas.

In 2008, the office implemented a computer-assisted program that distributes subpoenas to all Los Angeles Police Department officers electronically, via e-mail. The move followed a successful pilot program with three LAPD divisions.

Subpoenas are delivered almost instantly to LAPD officers' e-mail accounts. This eliminates the need to personally locate each officer and hand-deliver each subpoena.

LAPD officers are required to check their e-mail daily; therefore, they receive subpoenas no later than one day after they

are sent. This gives the officer more time to plan for the court appearance or to advise prosecutors if he or she is unavailable for court. In turn, prosecutors have more time to resolve witness problems.

Subpoenas are sent directly to officers and not physical locations; transfers and assignment changes no longer cause delays in service. After opening the e-mail, the officer is prompted to acknowledge receipt of service. Electronic subpoenas reduce both the number of no-shows and unnecessary trips to court by officers. They also eliminate the last-minute scrambling that previously occurred when paper subpoenas were lost or did not reach officers.

The system has been so successful that LAPD reported it saved more than \$1 million in the first few months. Plans are underway to expand the system to include the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and municipal police departments.



Los Angeles Police Sgt. Christopher Chase and Special Assistant Carol Burke helped develop the electronic subpoena system.

identified the defendant from a photo lineup but even that identification was tentative. Witness statements about the crime varied wildly. The main prosecution witness said the defendant fired the gun while on a bicycle. All other witnesses said the shooter was on foot. There also were conflicting clothing descriptions, contradictory physical descriptions and different statements about the number of suspects involved.

The key defense eyewitness in the case, a social worker who had just completed an in-home visit, was generally credible. However, she stated that the defendant was not the shooter. Ms. Yriarte believed the social worker was simply mistaken. The prosecutor used artful cross-examination to corroborate the prosecution's witnesses, where possible, and create a plausible explanation for the inconsistencies that the social worker's

testimony presented. Ms. Yriarte's stellar cross-examination effectively turned the social worker from a defense witness into a prosecution witness.

Another key to her case was the skillful use of a gang expert. The expert explained that Bautista was a "soldier" who committed the crime while the "shot caller" watched to validate Bautista's promotion in the gang.

Ms. Yriarte's strategy and skill turned an eight-to-four not-guilty vote into two first-degree murder convictions. The defendant was sentenced to 100 years to life in prison.

Ms. Yriarte graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and Loyola Law School. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1997.

Embracing Technology

LADANET

Launched in September 2007, the District Attorney's intranet site, LADAnet, provides employees a single portal to important information they need to perform their jobs more efficiently. The site is accessible only to office employees.

Instead of sorting through old files and bookshelves, now employees may simply turn on their computers to access legal and law enforcement reference material, policy manuals, general office memoranda, employment and promotional opportunities, benefits information, links to outside agencies and weekly features and news on programs and personalities within the office. Upcoming office events are featured prominently at the top of the site's front page.

The site includes a wide variety of training materials to keep prosecutors up to date on developments in the law. The office's Saturday Seminars are available for viewing.

The latest press releases produced by the office's Media Relations Division also are listed.

DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Where lawyers and paralegals once had to dig through musty paper files to track down old case records, the office's ambitious program to create a digital archive has helped save time and assured the preservation of critical information.

By the end of 2008, more than 500,000 files – or more than 83 million individual pages of documents – were digitized under the office's plan to scan all paper documents in closed case files.

The system's advantages are numerous. As more files are scanned, preservation of the documents is guaranteed. The same file can be viewed by multiple attorneys in different locations. In addition, the new system is designed to make it easier to locate key words and phrases throughout the document. This saves time and increases the ability to locate relevant documents and critical information.

The digital archive effort was complemented by the office's most significant revision to its



Andrea Bouas | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • April 2007

Andrea Bouas was selected for her outstanding work in a controversial case that involved 10 minors charged in the severe beating of three girls in Long Beach's Bixby Knolls neighborhood on Halloween 2006.

The incident began after the three girls left a house and passed a large group of individuals who taunted them with racial slurs. The crowd ultimately attacked the girls, seriously injuring two of them. The victims were all Caucasian and the assailants were all African-American. Roughly 10 to 15 assailants attacked each victim. One victim was struck on the head with a skateboard, rendered unconscious and beaten further. When a friend came to help, she was beaten and left with a concussion and severe facial injuries that required seven hours of surgery. A good Samaritan, an

African-American man, intervened by throwing his body over one of the girls as she lay prone. Had he not done so, the case could have involved murder charges.

The police apprehended 10 minors – nine girls and one boy, ranging in age from 12 to 17. Three counts of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury were filed against each minor. Hate-crime allegations were filed against the oldest eight minors.

Ms. Bouas encountered a great deal of difficulty securing witnesses to come to court and having witnesses link the defendants to the crime scene during court proceedings. Many witnesses refused to cooperate with police because they feared for their safety. Ms. Bouas was instrumental

case management process in years. On Feb. 1, 2008, redesigned case folders were unveiled. The new design will make it easier to digitally archive files and will pave the way for electronic management of active cases.

The project also included improvements to case closing procedures, which will increase accountability and improve the gathering of statistical information.

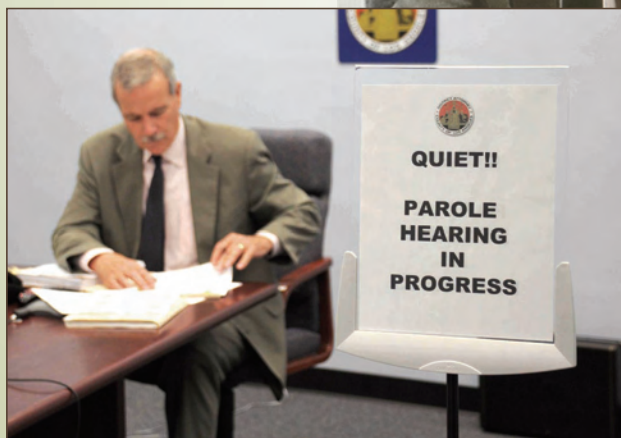
VIDEOCONFERENCING

In years past, deputy district attorneys and crime victims had to travel to far-off prisons to participate in parole consideration hearings for convicts serving life terms.

But in 2007 and 2008, more than 1,200 of these hearings were conducted using state-of-the-art videoconferencing technology that allows deputy district attorneys, crime survivors and other interested parties to have their voices heard from various locations within Los Angeles County, eliminating costly and time-consuming journeys.

The technology also saves office resources. It increases productivity and reduces costs for the four full-time and 18 part-time deputy district attorneys who make up the Lifer Hearing Division. The 1,200 videoconference hearings represent one-quarter of the office's 4,900 lifer hearing appearances in 2007 and 2008.

Since its inception in 2002, videoconferencing



Robert Budman, a retired deputy district attorney who works in the Lifer Hearing Division, participates in a videoconference parole hearing.

has been expanded. There are sites in downtown Los Angeles, Lynwood, Santa Monica and Pomona. A

second downtown location was being established at the end of 2008, and plans to create a location in the San Fernando Valley were being explored.

In 2008, more than 95 percent of prisoners were denied parole after hearings involving Los Angeles County deputy district attorneys.

in convincing two key witnesses to come forward and cooperate in spite of their reservations. Even though they made identifications at the scene, no witness was able to point out the minors in court. Ms. Bouas was forced to prove the case circumstantially. In addition, the judge denied the use of DNA evidence linking a victim's blood to clothing worn by one of the minors.

The case was further complicated by intensive media coverage and defense tactics. But Ms. Bouas ultimately prevailed. The judge sustained the petitions against all but the youngest minor.

"This was a very difficult case," John Allen, head deputy of Juvenile Headquarters South, wrote in nominating Ms. Bouas. "Juvenile was fortunate to have someone of Andrea Bouas' stature here to prosecute this matter."

Ms. Bouas received a Bachelor of Science in international relations from the University of Southern California and graduated from Loyola Law School. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1987.



Deputy District Attorneys of the Month

Louis Parise | May 2007



Louis Parise was honored for two difficult trials in 2006 — one, a murder case with a pugnacious prosecution witness, and the second, a bizarre stalking case.

The first case involved third-strike defendant Marty Paul Webb who had been charged or suspected in several prior slayings but had not been convicted.

Webb shot and killed his girlfriend during an argument. Both were Skid Row drug dealers. The witnesses were drug dealers and users who were under the influence at the time of the shooting.

The key witness initially refused to talk to anyone. Outside the courtroom, she got into a shouting match that almost came to blows with the victim's mother. Mr. Parise found himself playing boxing referee as he physically separated the two. He convinced the witness to cooperate and testify at trial. Her testimony included her admission that she was dealing

crack at the time of the shooting and her hope that the District Attorney's Office would pay her rent "forever."

Mr. Parise found another witness — a friend of the defendant — in state prison. The witness testified that, while in the midst of a crack binge, Webb confessed to the shooting.

He was convicted of murder and sentenced to 70 years to life in prison.

Illustrative of Mr. Parise's professionalism, the losing defense attorney wrote District Attorney Steve Cooley a letter praising the prosecutor for "outstanding trial skills...and his commitment to the highest level of ethics...."

In the second case, Kunta Kinte Howard was a classic stalker who had a wife and three girlfriends. He attracted each one with initial charm that slowly but surely deteriorated into stalking and violence. Howard broke into their homes, beat them up and threatened to kill them.

He had a long history of feigning mental illness and acted out several times in front of the jury. Howard testified calmly during direct examination. However, during cross-examination, Mr. Parise caught the defendant in a lie. Howard demanded to return to lockup and fell down on the courtroom floor. Mr. Parise never missed a beat. He continued to question Howard while he was on the floor.

Howard was convicted of multiple felonies and sentenced to 150 years to life.

Mr. Parise received his Bachelor of Arts from Santa Clara University. He received a master's degree in history from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. He joined the District Attorney's Office in 1998.

Natalie Adomian | June 2007

Natalie Adomian was lauded for a string of victories in difficult cases when she served in the Victim Impact Program in Pasadena. Her cases all presented different challenges — from difficult witnesses to problematic rulings — but Ms. Adomian prevailed.

In *People v. Joong Kim*, the defendant was on trial for the strangulation murder of his wife. Kim's confession, obtained by the Las Vegas police, was ruled inadmissible because of translation errors made by the interpreter. Ms. Adomian was able to overcome this, and Kim was convicted of murder based on circumstantial evidence.

In another case, *People v. Herman De Los Rios*, the defendant had a documented history of psychotic episodes, hallucinations and cirrhosis of the liver — all from a long history of alcohol and drug use. He shot and killed his girlfriend. He also shot himself twice under the chin but survived. Despite defense claims of mental impairment, jurors returned a first-degree murder conviction.

People v. Raymond McClendon presented complex challenges. The defendant was previously convicted of child molestation involving four boys. McClendon was on parole when he met the 9-year-old victim in this case and his mother. McClendon manipulated the victim's mother into a relationship and persuaded her to allow him to baby-sit the victim overnight at his residence and take the child on day trips. On the witness stand, the victim, who had attention-deficit (hyperactivity) disorder and had great difficulty testifying, contradicted the detective on basic issues. Still, McClendon was convicted and sentenced to 480 years to life in prison.

Another child molestation case, *People v. Alan Calles*, might never have been prosecuted if not for Ms. Adomian's dedication. The two victims were molested in Burbank while living with their mother. The children moved to a small Texas town to live with their father, disclosed the crime to a neighbor, and it was reported to police. After learning of the case, Ms. Adomian caught a plane to Texas and interviewed the children. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to prison.

Ms. Adomian also persuaded a jury to convict Clifton Hutchins, the so-called "Foothill Rapist." The defendant raped four women during burglaries of their homes. He attempted to destroy evidence by forcing the victims to shower. During the trial, the defense presented alibi witnesses who claimed he was at other locations during the assaults. Despite his tactics, the defendant was convicted and sentenced to 141 years and six months to life in prison.

Ms. Adomian graduated from the University of Southern California and Southwestern University School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1998.



Mary Murray | July 2007

Mary Murray's conscientious and forceful prosecution in the torture and murder of 21-month-old Isaac Lopez made her a most deserving recipient of this award.

The defendants were Isaac's parents, Anthony Lopez and Sylvia Rolon. They were charged with first-degree murder with the special circumstance of torture. Ms. Murray had to prove that they intended to kill and torture Isaac.

Ms. Murray located and interviewed every person who may have had contact with the family and reviewed every report concerning the defendants, Isaac and his siblings. In two trials, she called more than 40 witnesses to tell the horrific story of Isaac's short life that was filled with abandonment, abuse, torture and then death by his father and mother.

Lopez beat Isaac to death, and then he and Rolon burned the body to cover up the crime. They later bound Isaac's hands and feet with duct tape, wrapped his body in numerous plastic bags and placed him in a van for disposal. An officer responding to an Amber Alert stopped the van and discovered Isaac's charred and bound body inside a duffle bag. The cause of death was the combination of blunt-force trauma, asphyxiation and high levels of pseudoephedrine.

The only direct witnesses were Isaac's siblings, who also had been abused, suffered severe emotional damage and did not want to testify. Ms. Murray proved that Isaac's father tortured and then killed Isaac through the number, location and manner of infliction of the injuries over a 24-hour period, including Isaac's screams heard by neighbors.

The challenge in the case against Isaac's mother was more daunting. There was no evidence that she inflicted the torture or had the specific intent to commit the crime. But Ms. Murray argued the mother had a legal duty to act to stop the abuse but had failed to do so. Her failure to act, together with her knowledge of the father's intent to torture and kill Isaac, constituted aiding and abetting. Ms. Murray's introduction of the mother's

failure to act exercised an unprecedented legal theory, which was upheld on appeal and is now a basis of criminal liability for all caretakers.

Lopez was convicted of first-degree murder with a special allegation of torture, one count of assault on a child causing death and child abuse causing death. Rolon was convicted of second-degree murder, assault on a child resulting in death and child abuse. Lopez is serving a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole, while Rolon is serving a sentence of 25 years to life.

Ms. Murray graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and Southwestern University School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office as a law clerk in 1996 and became a deputy district attorney in 1997.



Dana Aratani | August 2007

Dana Aratani was recognized for effectively employing his skills as a certified public accountant in a complex, confounding case against a business that preyed on elderly consumers.

Glendale-based plumbing and electrical conglomerate Pick Red wreaked havoc on thousands of individuals. Its schemes included performing substandard work, enticing customers into contracting for unnecessary repairs and billing them for work that was never provided. The practices allowed six co-owners of the company to reap enormous profits totaling millions of dollars. An investigation revealed that the owners managed to keep much of their ill-gotten gains because the company inflated its deductions on tax returns and sometimes did not file tax returns at all.

Mr. Aratani learned that Pick Red established "front" employees who became its public face — young, naïve people who acted as the signatories on all consumer contracts. Their fingerprints were everywhere, but, as the defendants cleverly anticipated, these young people had no criminal intent. Hunting down the true criminals was difficult.

In taking the case to the grand jury, Mr. Aratani's unique background as a licensed CPA came in handy. Utilizing his expertise, he built the prosecution as a tax fraud case.

Mr. Aratani worked jointly with the California Franchise Tax Board to obtain corporate and personal tax returns. He reviewed records from 65 bank accounts obtained through a search warrant, spent four days before the investigative grand jury examining 18 witnesses on complex corporate and tax documents and then spent seven days before the grand jury successfully obtaining an indictment against all six defendants.

On June 28, 2007, after two hours of grand jury deliberations, Mr. Aratani obtained a 73-count indictment. The jurors were so impressed with Mr. Aratani that they waited until the court was in recess for an opportunity to speak to him. The entire panel stayed for a full hour of discussion. Afterward, one juror wrote Mr. Aratani a letter praising him for his skills and calm. In addition, Terry Bork, who was then the office's grand jury legal advisor, sent a letter to Assistant District Attorney Curt Hazell, stating that the "jurors were outspoken in their praise of Dana for his low-key, non-threatening manner with the witnesses."

Mr. Aratani received his Bachelor of Science from California State University, Los Angeles, and graduated from Whittier College of Law. He joined the District Attorney's Office in 1989.



Advancing Justice

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE ADVANCES PUBLIC SAFETY

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Mark Collins was working his Transit Services Bureau beat along the Metro Blue Line route in August 2008 when he made a discovery – one that previously might have slipped by him.

As he questioned a fare evasion suspect, the deputy noticed that the man's Social Security card was counterfeit. Deputy Collins was able to tell that the typeface used on the card was wrong because the day before he had attended a Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) training session titled "Investigating Identity Theft for First Responders."

In that class, Deputy Collins learned the telltale signs of counterfeit identity cards. The suspect admitted that he purchased the card on the street for \$30.

safety by providing quality training to prosecutors and law enforcement professionals.

More than 2,000 law enforcement and other personnel representing more than 150 agencies and organizations attended CJI training events in 2008. Among those attending were representatives from almost every police department in Los Angeles County. Programs are offered at locations throughout the county at little or no charge to participants.

Expert trainers join talented deputy district attorneys and investigators in creating programs and educational materials that address the needs of Los Angeles County law enforcement. With travel and training budgets dwindling because of fiscal constraints, trainers and trainees alike are benefiting.

District Attorney Cooley said, "CJI is an investment in Los Angeles County law enforcement that greatly impacts public safety from the streets to the courtroom."

The CJI curriculum boasts a range of topics that address the increasingly

complex nature of investigations. Subjects include animal cruelty, asset forfeiture, DNA evidence, domestic violence, extradition, graffiti, truancy, elder abuse and high technology crimes.



"CJI is an investment in Los Angeles County law enforcement that greatly impacts public safety from the streets to the courtroom."

— District Attorney Steve Cooley

Deputy Collins' experience exemplifies the goals of CJI, an external training program created by District Attorney Steve Cooley in 2007. CJI's mission is to advance public



Catherine Chon | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • September 2007

Employing her strong trial skills and work ethic, Catherine Chon overcame a novel, vigorous defense in which the defendant in a driving-under-the-influence murder case claimed he was rendered unconscious by a prescribed medication.

Frank Tribble was driving a friend's rental car on a suspended license on May 10, 2004, when he was involved in two hit-and-run collisions. Tribble attempted to pass a car at high speed, hit it and then careened into another car head-on, killing the driver and injuring himself.

Tribble was charged with a DUI murder – known as a Watson murder – and other vehicle code violations. His lawyers initially contended that Tribble had a diminished mental state and was not fully culpable because of a history of sleep apnea. Lacking any supporting expert witnesses, that defense was dropped. But just before trial, the defense switched gears to another similar defense, claiming Prednisone-

Devallis Rutledge, special counsel to District Attorney Cooley and a nationally recognized expert in criminal law, provides regular legal updates for law enforcement officers on topics such as interrogation law and tactics, search and seizure, and courtroom testimony.

“By far, one of the most informative classes I’ve had in 21 years,” said Los Angeles Police Detective William Sera, who attended an interrogation law training in October 2008. “It is a must to attend CJI seminars for updates on case law from instructors with such knowledge.”

Building training partnerships with organizations such as the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County (POALAC) and the California Narcotic Officers’ Association (CNOA) has allowed CJI to expand its audience and reach.

“Collaboration, cooperation, training” are the only ways to stay ahead of the criminal element, District Attorney Cooley said during his Dec. 1, 2008, oath of office address.

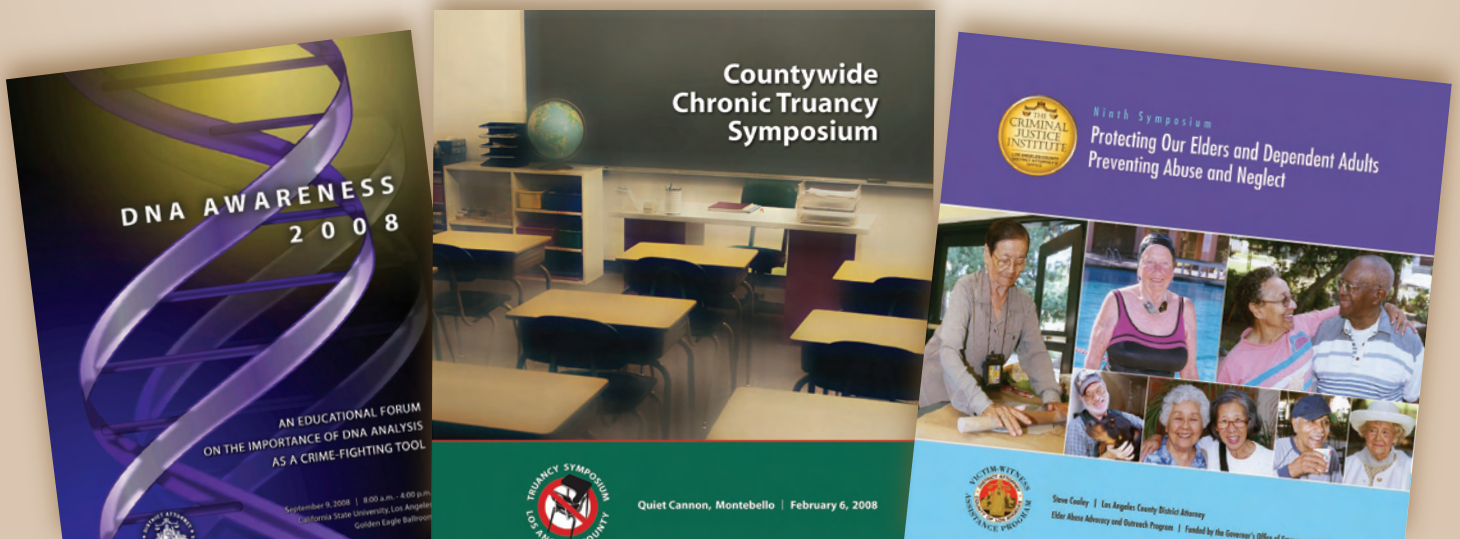
The CJI Web site, <http://da.lacounty.gov/CJI> features a monthly calendar listing of programs, a “Meet

the Trainers” page and a link for agency representatives to request training. The office’s Saturday Seminars also are listed on the site.

CJI has become recognized as a premier source for first-rate law enforcement and criminal justice training.

CJI HOSTED THREE SIGNATURE EVENTS IN 2008:

- The Seventh Annual DNA Awareness Educational Forum & Awards Luncheon featured a glimpse into advancements in forensic science for nearly 500 law enforcement officers, prosecutors and others.
- The Ninth Elder Abuse Symposium brought together 300 attorneys, law enforcement personnel and social service professionals to share ideas about protecting elder and dependent adults from physical and financial abuse.
- The Countywide Chronic Truancy Symposium highlighted best practices in combating truancy for a crowd of more than 500 educators and juvenile justice practitioners.



induced delirium, which allegedly rendered Tribble legally unconscious.

Inheriting the case from another deputy district attorney, Ms. Chon became thoroughly prepared on the facts proving Tribble’s guilt. She also delved deeply into the scientific literature and studies necessary to cross-examine the defense expert effectively.

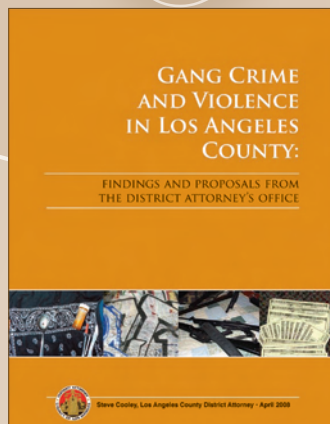
Ms. Chon provided jurors with an understandable and logical theory of Tribble’s culpability and exposed the gaps and falsehoods in the defense case. She was rewarded with guilty verdicts on all

charges after 45 minutes of deliberation. Tribble was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Ms. Chon graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with bachelor’s degrees in English and philosophy. She then attended Santa Clara University School of Law, where she received her law degree. She served as a deputy district attorney in Solano County before joining the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office in September 2000.

Advancing Justice

GANG REPORT REVEALS NEW PROSECUTION TOOLS



The District Attorney's Office took a fresh look at a decades-old problem that has plagued Los Angeles County: street gangs and the violence they inflict on communities. In April 2008, the office issued a report titled Gang Crime and Violence in Los

Angeles County: Findings and Proposals from the District Attorney's Office. The report was ordered by District Attorney Steve Cooley, who said it was time to update the office's last gang crime report, which was issued in 1992.

The new report addresses numerous advances that have improved the office's ability to prosecute gang crimes effectively. It also notes the achievements of prosecutors in the Hardcore Gang Division, who have a roughly 90 percent overall conviction rate.

The report also highlights:

- Recently enacted statutes – the Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act (STEP) and the 10-20-life gun law – that allow significant sentences in gang and gun cases.
- The Felonious Re-Entry Program, which permits cross-designated deputy district attorneys to seek federal convictions and imprisonment for transnational gang members who illegally re-enter the United States after deportation or exclusion.

■ The effectiveness of multiagency collaborative efforts, such as the Community Law Enforcement And Recovery program (CLEAR). CLEAR has successfully reclaimed and recovered gang-infested neighborhoods.

■ The importance of providing special training to law enforcement officers and aggressively prosecuting cases to make certain that individuals who have irrevocably embraced the violent gang lifestyle are taken off the streets. In the Hardcore Gang Division, specially trained deputy district attorneys handle cases from the time they are filed until they are completed.

■ Initiatives by the District Attorney's Office, including Project LEAD (Legal Enrichment And Decision-making) and the Rescue Youth Mentorship Program, which "have provided alternative positive role models that have transformed the lives of at-risk youth." Parental responsibility and accountability are being addressed through programs such as Abolish Chronic Truancy (ACT) and the East Los Angeles Parent Project.

There is no one formula or program that will rid Los Angeles County of gangs, but agencies need to work together and continually improve their strategies to keep pace as gang culture evolves.

The report concludes: "We must extract a commitment from every citizen in Los Angeles County, from the government agencies that represent us, to the schools that educate our children, to the churches that nurture us, through to each individual family and person, to address the problem of gang violence because it is a problem that affects us all. Together we can make a difference."

Stacy Okun-Wiese | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • October 2007

Stacy Okun-Wiese was lauded for securing life sentences against three defendants – with different but complicated theories of culpability – in a 2006 double-murder.

In the case of *People v. Christopher Murray, Salvador J. Villanueva Jr. and Angelo Jacob Vasquez*, Christopher Trevizo and Demitrius Flores were shot to death. Mr. Flores' twin brother, Damon, also was shot but survived. The shooting stemmed from a feud between Mr. Trevizo and Murray. Mr. Trevizo once tried to rob Murray, a local drug dealer, of his marijuana.

The three armed defendants chased down and confronted the three

victims – with each defendant squaring off with a victim. Within minutes of the confrontation, Murray shot and killed Mr. Trevizo and Demitrius Flores. When Damon Flores ran away, Murray shot at him too. Neither Villanueva nor Vasquez fired his gun and, in fact, they contended their guns were not even loaded at the time of the murders.

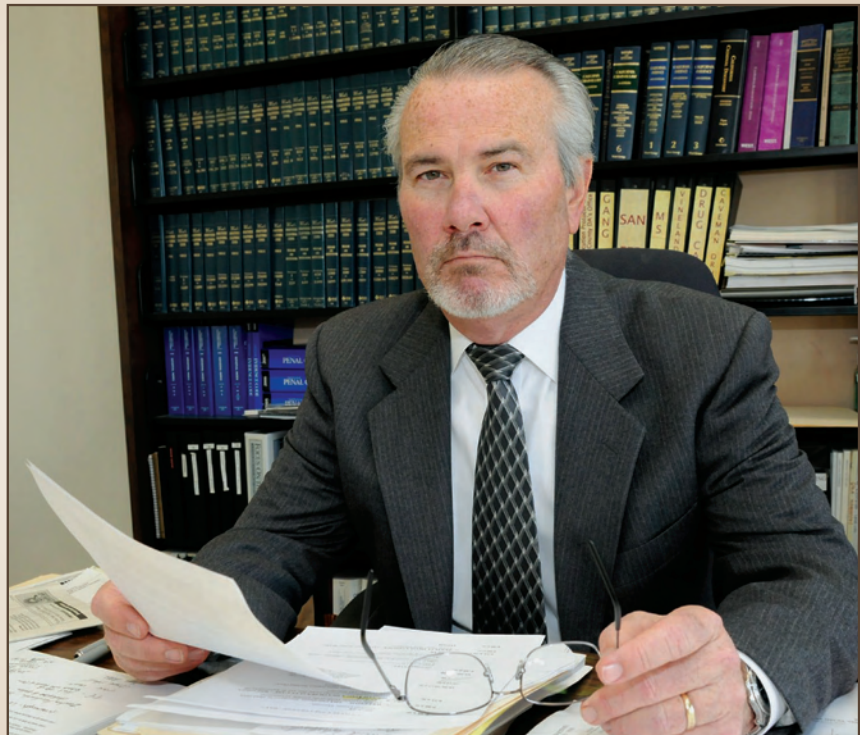
Murray pleaded guilty to the murder charges but claimed he was insane at the time and suffered from bipolar disorder and other conditions. Ms. Okun-Wiese called two mental health experts who testified that Murray was, at all times, sane. The jury agreed and returned within minutes with a finding of sanity. Murray was sentenced to life in prison

HARDCORE GANG DIVISION: RECORD NUMBERS REFLECT COMMITMENT, DEDICATION

The District Attorney's commitment to eradicating dangerous street gangs was reflected in the record number of cases the Hardcore Gang Division brought to trial in 2007 and 2008. Fighting gang criminals with ever-increasing vigor, the Hardcore Gang Division's 60 prosecutors completed 330 jury trials in 2008, up 30 percent from 254 jury trials in 2007 and a stunning 94 percent increase from 2004's 170 jury trials.

Even more impressive than the division's sheer hard work was its success in maintaining quality prosecutions while dramatically increasing the quantity. The rate of guilty verdicts remained consistently high even as the trial numbers increased: 89.6 percent in 2008; 87 percent in 2007; 89.9 percent in 2006; 91 percent in 2005; and 91.7 percent in 2004.

In 2008, this hard-charging division, led by Head Deputy Gary Hearnberger (above), even broke an officewide record for the most murder cases tried by any division or branch in a single year, completing 209 murder trials with a guilty-verdict rate of 87.9 percent. The division also held the previous officewide record of 186 murder trials in 2006.



The Hardcore Gang Division's murder trial numbers have increased steadily in recent years: 121 in 2004, 123 in 2005, 186 in 2006, 182 in 2007 and 209 in 2008.

"These cases don't get better with time, only worse. So we have been pushing to set these cases for trial as quickly as possible," Mr. Hearnberger said. "When we have a case, let's put it on."

without the possibility of parole and a 79-year-to-life term to be served consecutively.

Two weeks later, Ms. Okun-Wiese tried the two remaining defendants for their roles in the murders and attempted murder. Despite testimony that Villanueva and Vasquez ran away as the shots were fired and that their guns were unloaded, Ms. Okun-Wiese argued that the defendants aided and abetted in the shootings and understood that the killings were a natural and probable consequence of their actions. The jury returned first- and second-degree murder convictions. Ms. Okun-Wiese's hard work and strong courtroom skills helped secure life sentences against all three defendants.

Ms. Okun-Wiese is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, and Southwestern University School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office in November 1999, initially as a summer law clerk and later as a deputy district attorney.



Advancing Justice

PARTNERSHIP FIGHTS TRANSNATIONAL GANGS



The District Attorney's Office began an innovative partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2007 to target transnational gang members and other individuals who have been previously deported or excluded from the United States.

Under the Felonious Re-Entry Program, Deputy District Attorney Brock Lunsford (above) of the Hardcore Gang Division was assigned to the U.S. Attorney's Office to help prosecute illegal re-entry cases. Mr. Lunsford was assigned to the Domestic Security and Immigration Crimes Section, a specialized unit dedicated to prosecuting complex immigration-related crimes.

The District Attorney's Office and the U.S. Attorney's Office have worked jointly with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to target

gang members illegally in the country whether on the streets or behind bars.

Since the operation began in October 2007 through the end of 2008, Mr. Lunsford and other cross-designated prosecutors from the District Attorney's Office filed more than 200 criminal cases alleging illegal re-entry into the United States after deportation or exclusion. Other deputy district attorneys who have participated in the program include Jacob Yim, Grace Rai and Robert Rabbani.

A prime example of the defendants targeted by this program is Antonio Velasco-Gutierrez, a gang member who illegally re-entered the country at least twice. Velasco-Gutierrez was convicted in a 1993 attempted murder of an off-duty sheriff's deputy during an attempted carjacking.

After serving state prison time and being deported in 2003, Velasco-Gutierrez illegally re-entered the country and was arrested again in October 2004. Alhambra police took him into custody in a house that was decorated with Velasco-Gutierrez's framed wanted poster from his attempted-murder case. The residence also contained drugs, paraphernalia and a police baton.

He was sentenced to 32 months in the drug case, served his time and in 2006 was deported.

Yet again, he re-entered the United States and was captured by ICE officials in October 2007. Velasco-Gutierrez was prosecuted by a cross-designated deputy district attorney under the Felonious Re-Entry Program and convicted. Velasco-Gutierrez was sentenced to seven years and two months in federal prison in 2008 for illegally re-entering the country.



Kennes Ma | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • November 2007

Kennes Ma was honored for back-to-back murder convictions and his commitment to teamwork.

Mr. Ma's first victory involved a shooting death in which the defendant, Juan Carlos Perez, contended he was just a witness. Sheriff's deputies heard multiple gunshots and immediately drove in the direction of the blasts. Twenty seconds later, they saw Perez and another man running toward them and yelling about a shooting.

Investigators at first thought Perez was a witness. But it quickly became clear he was the shooter. At trial, Perez testified he shot the victim in self-defense. He contended a silver truck had approached him, and a passenger with a gun had jumped out and confronted him. After 14 days of trial, the jury convicted the defendant of murder.

One day after that verdict, Mr. Ma started a murder trial in the stabbing death of a homeless man. The case, which included a poor-quality video of portions of the crime, involved Bennie Trimale Nero and his sister,

PROGRAM WORKS TO ERASE GRAFFITI

Graffiti is an ugly, costly and menacing blight on our communities, and its creation, a practice known as “tagging,” is a serious crime. To combat this senseless form of vandalism that costs society throughout the United States billions of dollars each year, the District Attorney’s Office launched a multifaceted Graffiti Prosecution Program in 2007 and has completed the first phase of this bold initiative.

During this phase, the District Attorney’s Office partnered with Sgt. Dwight Waldo, a recognized graffiti expert from the San Bernardino Police Department, to produce a comprehensive 121-page training manual.

The specialized training, through the District Attorney’s Criminal Justice Institute, teaches law enforcement officers how to analyze and identify individual “taggers” through their graffiti and prove their identities even when there are no eyewitnesses to the crimes. Three officer training programs were slated for 2009.

The call to action against graffiti was sparked, in part, by the 2007 slaying of Maria Hicks, a grandmother from Pico Rivera who was gunned down after she honked her car horn, flashed her car lights and tailed a “tagger” who had just defaced a wall.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, who represents Pico Rivera and surrounding areas, immediately pushed for and secured funding that enabled law enforcement and the District Attorney’s Office to tackle the area’s problem head-on.

A full-time prosecutor was assigned to handle all juvenile and adult graffiti cases in the Pico Rivera area. Employing a practice known as vertical prosecution, the same prosecutor handles each case from the initial filing and arraignment through trial or final disposition, thereby assuring continuity and efficiency. The prosecutor works hand-in-hand with the Pico Rivera Station Vandalism Enforcement Team, a multiagency law-enforcement effort launched in January 2008 that is aimed at aggressively cracking down on taggers.

The second phase of the Graffiti Prosecution Program will develop a system to track and monitor graffiti cases and maximize the use of probation conditions to implement driver’s license sanctions, prohibit convicts’ possession of graffiti tools and, where possible, make convicts pay restitution costs for graffiti damage and cleanup.

Lisa Lenette Brown, who were arguing when a man rode up to the scene on a bicycle. The video depicted Brown giving a shiny object to Nero, who used it to stab the victim. Nero contended that the victim had stabbed him first, a contention bolstered by the fact that he had a stab wound to his bicep. But after 15 days of trial, the jury convicted both defendants of second-degree murder.

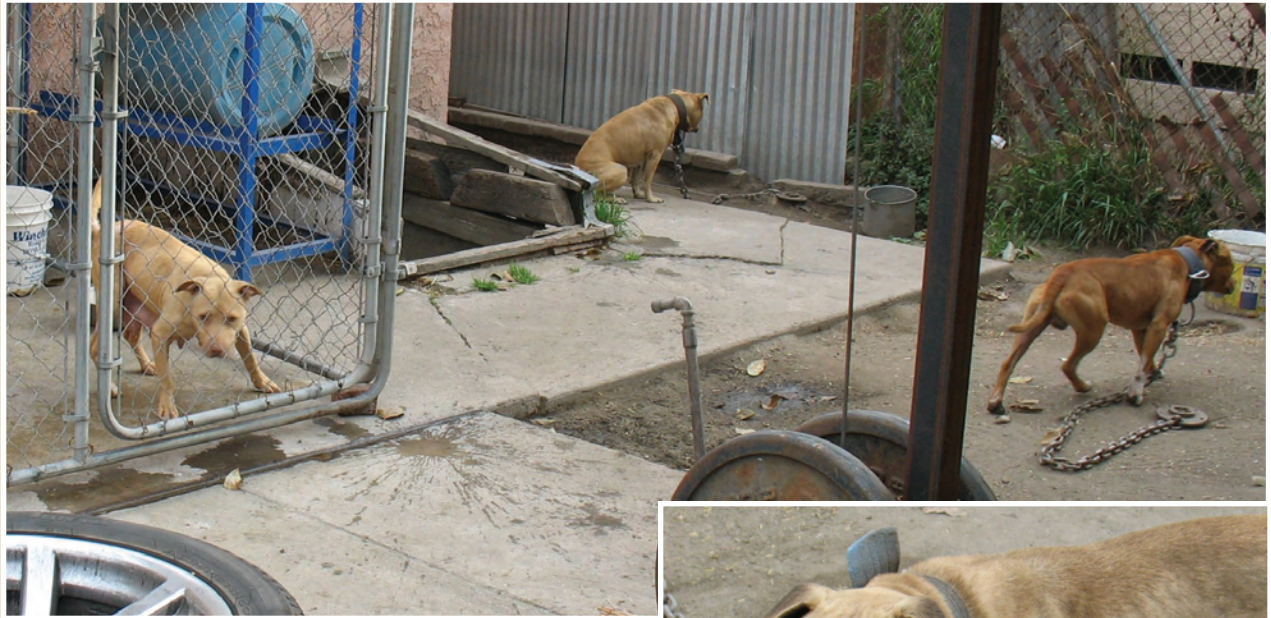
Mr. Ma also is known as a team player. While he was awaiting the start of a murder trial in 2008, a colleague became ill and had to drop out in the middle of a robbery trial. Mr. Ma picked up the trial without

hesitation and secured a conviction on a Friday. He then started a murder trial, stemming from a 1996 slaying, the following Monday. Despite the passage of time, and that his two main witnesses were 9-year-old boys at the time of the slaying, jurors convicted the defendant of murder.

Mr. Ma graduated from California State University, Long Beach, and Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School. He joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1999.

Advancing Justice

ANIMAL CRUELTY PROGRAM BREAKS NEW GROUND



Recognizing that animal abuse must be taken seriously and is undeniably linked to violence against humans, the District Attorney's Office created the Animal Cruelty Prosecution Program in September 2007.

The program – the first of its kind in the nation – was created to ensure that animal cruelty and neglect cases are prosecuted consistently and effectively throughout Los Angeles County. A key component of the program, headed by Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator Deborah Knaan, is to assign specially trained deputy



Teresa de Castro | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • December 2007

Teresa de Castro was recognized for a difficult shooting case in which the defendant contended he acted in self-defense. Ms. de Castro argued that the defendant was little more than an out-of-control gangster firing a gun to settle an argument without regard for anyone's safety.

The February 2007 shooting took place in the early morning hours outside a popular West Hollywood restaurant. Dana Douglas White left the restaurant and headed toward his car with six to eight people trailing him, including the victim. Security guards who saw the incident testified that the group surrounded White's car, and the victim, who was drunk, punched out the defendant's front passenger-side window with his bare fist.

Still sitting in the driver's seat of his parked car, White shot at the victim – firing the handgun through the shattered passenger-side window. The bullet struck the victim in the hip.

White then got out of his car and pointed the gun at the people around his car before sitting down again and driving away. Fifteen minutes later, White was apprehended. Gunshot residue was recovered from his hand. The next day, a witness found a loaded gun along the route White was driving.

The defense maintained that the gun used in the shooting – which, to complicate matters, had been accidentally pulled from the sheriff's property room and crushed before the trial began – was, in fact, the

district attorneys to prosecute all animal abuse cases from the time they are filed until the cases are concluded.

Among some of the significant cases prosecuted under the program were:

- A Lakewood pet shop owner who falsely presented himself as a veterinarian and operated on animals – “euthanizing” them in terrible ways. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six years in state prison.
- A man who, after arguing with his girlfriend, beat her cat to death. He was sentenced to two years in prison.
- Two South Los Angeles defendants who headed a dog-fighting ring involving 17 adult dogs and four pups. One defendant was sentenced to five years in state prison after pleading guilty. The other was convicted and sentenced to three years.

The program has garnered national attention and its prosecutors frequently receive calls from across the country seeking assistance. Ms. Knaan represented the District Attorney’s Office on a 15-member advisory panel assembled by the National District Attorneys Association to develop an animal cruelty training curriculum for prosecutors and law enforcement nationwide.

The Animal Cruelty Prosecution Program provides training for law enforcement and animal control agencies and expands prosecutors’ knowledge of animal cruelty laws through ongoing, officewide training seminars. Trainings, through the District Attorney’s Criminal Justice Institute, were provided to officers of the Los Angeles Police Department and other agencies as well as animal service workers and the staff of the Pasadena Humane Society.

Opposite page: The Animal Cruelty Prosecution Program handled the prosecution of a South Los Angeles dog-fighting ring.



District Attorney Cooley introduces Animal Cruelty Case Coordinator Deborah Knaan (left) to the news media.

“Case after case has shown that serial killers and child abusers also have abused animals,” said District Attorney Steve Cooley, who received an award from the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) for creating the program. “By getting an animal abuser off of the streets, law enforcement officers may be preventing a crime against a human.”

The program also works to raise public awareness and encourage reporting of animal cruelty crimes.

The District Attorney’s Office established a tip line partnership with HSUS to offer rewards for information about dog fighting.

victim’s gun. The defense argued that the victim used the gun to shatter White’s car window. The defense further claimed that it was only then that the defendant took possession of the gun, grabbing it from the victim’s hand to both disarm the victim and defend himself.

During his testimony, the victim contradicted the accounts of security guards and refused to acknowledge that he had shattered White’s passenger-side window. The victim insisted that he simply had been standing alongside the car when he was shot.

Despite the many challenges of this trial, the jury was out for less than a day before it convicted White on counts of attempted voluntary manslaughter with a firearm, great bodily injury enhancements and shooting a firearm from a vehicle with great bodily injury. White was sentenced to 28 years to life in prison.

Ms. de Castro holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Tulane University Law School. She joined the District Attorney’s Office in 2000.



Advancing Justice

ESCAPING JUSTICE NO MORE



On Oct. 2, 2008, the last of six fugitives featured on the District Attorney's innovative and influential Web site, www.EscapingJustice.com, was captured – 17 years after he

killed a 16-year-old Burbank Union High School student.

Rodolfo Gallegos fled to Mexico after shooting Kenneth Anthony Caldera to death and shooting and injuring two other young men on Aug. 24, 1991. Gallegos believed the teens were rival gang members driving through his gang's territory.

Through the cooperation of Mexican officials and the U.S. Marshals Service, Gallegos finally was arrested at his residence in Celaya. Gallegos was teaching English at the University of Guanajuato.

The Web site, www.EscapingJustice.com, was created by Jan Maurizi, director of the Bureau of Fraud and Corruption Prosecutions, to tell the stories of crime victims who were denied justice when fugitive suspects found safe haven in Mexico. The Web site was part of an effort led by the District Attorney's Office to overturn a 2001 Mexican Supreme Court decision holding that life imprisonment even with the possibility of parole was cruel and unusual punishment.

Under that decision, the court refused to extradite anyone facing a life sentence.

The District Attorney's Office pushed to have the

decision overturned and in 2005 successfully lobbied for a federal law that would have imposed sanctions on Mexico for not complying with the U.S.-Mexico extradition treaty. A month later, the Mexican Supreme Court reversed the 2001 ruling.

In 2007 and 2008, three other tragic cases that were featured on the Web site came to their long-awaited conclusions.

The killer of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy David March, Jorge Arroyo Garcia, pleaded guilty to murder on March 2, 2007, and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Arroyo Garcia



Deputy District Attorney Michele Hanisee addresses the court during the trial of Alvaro Luna Jara (below).

evaded capture in Mexico for four years after the April 2002 killing.

Daniel Perez was on trial for the 1999 kidnapping and shooting of his ex-wife, Anabella Vara, when he fatally shot Anabella's father, Carlos Vara, in his Fontana



Robert Britton | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • January 2008

In his second year as a deputy district attorney, Robert Britton was recognized for his outstanding work in three difficult, consecutive jury trials that came at the end of 2007.

Two of the cases involved violent crimes with reluctant witnesses and the third stemmed from an automobile repair shop with a penchant for performing bogus work and brazen rip-offs. To succeed in these cases, Mr. Britton worked around the clock during the holiday season.

People v. Pablo Esquivel was a multiple-count grand theft and auto insurance fraud prosecution that involved a corrupt repair shop operation in South Gate. The defendant helped manage the establishment that purposely inflicted further damage to customers' cars to inflate the repair

charges. Many vehicles were never properly repaired. Mr. Britton faced many hurdles in this case, which included highly circumstantial evidence. Nonetheless, Mr. Britton won across-the-board convictions. The defendant was sentenced to one year in jail and three years on probation and ordered to pay thousands of dollars in restitution.

In another case, Mr. Britton prosecuted defendant Jose Melendez in connection with two separate gang-related incidents: an armed robbery in Bell and two attempted murders in Maywood. During the latter offenses, the defendant opened fire on two victims, hitting one of them five times and the other twice. Mr. Britton had to overcome a series of obstacles: the victims did not cooperate with law enforcement, they provided

home. Perez, who was free on bail at the time, fled to Mexico. An informant who read about the case on www.EscapingJustice.com tipped the District Attorney's Office to Perez's whereabouts in Mexico in April 2005.

On July 7, 2008, Perez was sentenced in San Bernardino County Superior Court to 28 years in prison after pleading no contest to the murder of Mr. Vara. Perez was sentenced in Los Angeles County Superior Court to 33 years plus an additional life sentence for the shooting of Ms. Vara.

Alvaro Luna Jara, who fled to Mexico after the Aug. 29, 1998, murder of 12-year-old Steven Morales, was sentenced to life in prison in October 2008. Luna Jara was captured after an eight-year effort that included previous failed extradition attempts. A jury took less than 90 minutes to find him guilty.



At the sentencing hearing, Steven's father, Jack Morales, (above center with Ms. Maurizi) told the judge that Steven's mother died of cancer as she waited for justice to be served. Mr. Morales said Luna Jara should never taste freedom: "This is a scar that's never ever going to heal."

With the arrests of the fugitives featured on www.EscapingJustice.com, the District Attorney's Office is in the process of revamping the site.

FEDERAL AGREEMENT AIDS EXTRADITIONS



In 2008, the District Attorney's Office established a joint local-federal pilot project designed to speed the processing of extradition requests from throughout California.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs (OIA) asked District Attorney Steve Cooley to enter into a memorandum of understanding for the assignment of a prosecutor to OIA's Mexico team to serve as its expert on California statutory and procedural law.

The District Attorney's representative also would provide assistance to all prosecutors and law enforcement officers throughout California regarding extradition and mutual legal assistance treaty requests.

After an exhaustive process, Deputy District Attorney Shanna Batten (above) was selected.

In the first year, 14 California extradition cases resulted in fugitives being returned to the state. In addition, 35 requests were submitted for provisional arrests – the first step toward a future extradition once the fugitive is apprehended.

There are nearly 600 active extradition cases in which criminals fled from the United States to Mexico. About one-fifth of those cases originated in California.

The program, initiated by Jan Maurizi, director of the Bureau of Fraud and Corruption Prosecutions, complements and builds on the historic leadership of the District Attorney's Office on issues of apprehension and prosecution of international fugitives.

poor descriptions of the defendant shortly after the crimes, and the defendant gave an elaborate, but false, alibi defense. Nevertheless, Melendez was convicted of all charges and special allegations. He was sentenced to multiple life terms.

Mr. Britton's third case, *People v. John Castro*, centered on physical attacks and criminal threats the defendant committed against his sister and nephew in Cudahy. The case was complicated partly because of the victims' late reporting to police. To overcome these issues, Mr. Britton persuaded the trial judge to allow jurors to hear about uncharged gang-related evidence and prior incidents of the defendant's violent acts. The evidence helped explain the victims' state of fear. The introduction of this material allowed Mr. Britton to make a compelling case against the defendant who was ultimately convicted and sentenced to prison.

Mr. Britton received a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of California, Los Angeles, and graduated from Loyola Law School. He served as a law clerk in the District Attorney's Office before being hired as a deputy district attorney in 2006.



NEW DEPUTIES ADD DIVERSITY TO OFFICE



District Attorney Cooley with the June 2008 class of new deputy district attorneys

In 2007 and 2008, 166 new deputy district attorneys were hired – teaming bright, enthusiastic lawyers with the office’s court-tested veterans. Roughly one-third of the more than 1,000 prosecutors in the office have been hired since 2005.

The classes of 2007 and 2008 consist of 84 women and 82 men who speak multiple languages and come from diverse backgrounds.

African-Americans, Asians, Filipinos and Hispanic/Latinos comprise more than 40 percent of the new deputy classes.

Twenty foreign languages are spoken by the deputies: Armenian, Bulgarian, Chinese, Farsi, Fijian, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindu, Italian,

Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil and Vietnamese.

The new deputies come from more than 40 law schools and many were among the highest achievers, making the dean’s list and law review and being selected for Order of the Coif. Many of them participated in moot court and/or trial advocacy.

More than 80 members of the 2007 and 2008 classes already had walked the halls of the District Attorney’s Office before becoming deputies by either serving as volunteers or certified law clerks. More than 50 were volunteers or certified law clerks with other agencies.

Many members of the two classes had prior experience at civil law firms.

Alan Schneider | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • February 2008

Alan Schneider was selected for his prosecution of Christian Aguilar in a drive-by murder case for which he had just two days to prepare.

During jury selection, the assigned deputy district attorney was injured and placed on immediate medical leave. Mr. Schneider was asked to handle the case on a Friday and told that, despite the fact that the case contained 2,000 pages of discovery and was extremely complicated, he needed to be 100 percent ready for court the following Monday.

When Mr. Schneider initially spoke to the injured deputy about the case, his first words were: “Don’t you worry about a thing. Do not think about the case for one minute. I will handle the entire case. I just want you

to get better.” Mr. Schneider picked up the case file on Saturday afternoon and was in court Monday morning presenting the case to jurors. Further complicating matters, when testimony began, the investigating officer had a family medical emergency that kept him from attending the trial.

The case was plagued with difficulties. The one witness at the crime scene could not identify the suspect, did not know the number of people in the getaway car and did not see a license plate. Another witness, Aguilar’s landlady, told police she overheard part of a conversation outside her apartment several days after the murder in which the defendant stated, “I think I just shot someone.” She called 911 but did not mention the statement.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The District Attorney's Office actively participates in the California legislative process to help ensure that strong public safety laws are enacted. The office also works to defeat legislation that threatens the administration of justice. Located in Sacramento, the District Attorney's Legislative Office partners with experts from throughout the District Attorney's Office to craft legislation that prevents crime, holds offenders accountable and protects victims.

These are some of the major legislative accomplishments of the District Attorney's Office in 2007 and 2008:

COPS Funding

The office successfully advocated for the restoration of more than \$100 million in Citizens' Option for Public Safety (COPS) funding for law enforcement and prosecutors in California. The program partially funds the District Attorney's Hardcore Gang Division and pays the salaries of thousands of peace officers throughout the state.

Evidence Collection

The office obtained vetoes of Senate bills 511 and 756, which would have tied the hands of law enforcement officers in obtaining testimony from eyewitnesses and hampered their ability to conduct in-custody interrogations of crime suspects. The office organized a statewide campaign to oppose the legislation.

Determinate Sentencing

Senate Bill 40 preserved California's determinate sentencing law. The legislation was required after a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court (*Cunningham v. California*) found the original law was unconstitutional. SB 40 corrected defects identified in the ruling.

Sex Offenses

Assembly Bill 2410 and Senate Bill 542 were enacted to prevent sexually violent predators from obtaining their victims' addresses, phone numbers and other personal information. The legislation also provides for new safeguards to assure that DNA is properly tested in sexually violent predator cases.

Wiretaps

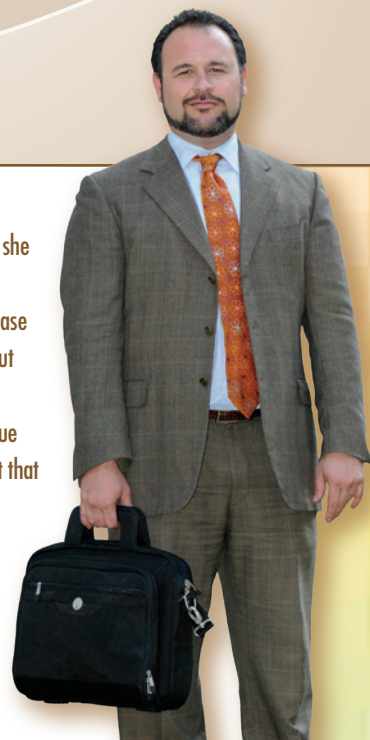
The Legislative Office pushed for the enactment of Assembly Bill 569, which extends California's model wiretap statute to 2012. California's wiretap law revisions were drafted by Deputy District Attorney Barbara Turner in 2001. The use of wiretaps has resulted in hundreds of convictions in major narcotics cases and has enabled law enforcement to resolve numerous homicides.

Instead, she told the operator the defendant was hitting his sister and assistance was needed. When police arrived, she denied ever calling, and Aguilar was not apprehended.

The case originally was filed because the defendant's girlfriend made a statement implicating him. The case was dismissed because she disappeared. It was refiled four years later after investigators tracked her down. But again, she fled, and her police statement could not be used at trial.

Despite all these and other obstacles, the jury convicted the defendant of first-degree murder and made a true finding as to the special circumstances. They also found true the personal use of a gun allegation — despite the fact that there were two other individuals in the vehicle at the time of the shooting and no one could identify the shooter.

Mr. Schneider graduated from Tufts University and from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. He joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995.



Advancing Justice

COURAGEOUS CITIZENS

A family driving home. A mother taking her daughter to school. A courtroom clerk doing his job.

Each one of them overcame fear, faced danger and acted courageously.

The District Attorney's Office heralded these and other brave individuals in 2007 and 2008 by presenting them Courageous Citizen Awards.

The Courageous Citizen Award was created in 1985 to commend individuals who have acted at considerable personal risk to stop a crime, help a victim, assist in the capture of a suspect or testify in the face of extraordinary pressures. The awards are presented at regional luncheons hosted by local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

Members of the Duran family of Panorama City were among those honored in November 2008. Jose Duran was driving with his wife, Wendy, and two daughters in their neighborhood when they witnessed gang members attacking two young boys. Mr. Duran stopped the vehicle and intervened. While the boys escaped, the gang members attacked Mr. Duran, beating him unconscious.

Despite this harrowing assault, Mr. and Mrs. Duran and their daughter, Melissa, who was 7 years old at the time of the attack, did what so many witnesses are terrified to do in a gang case – they cooperated with detectives, testified at the preliminary hearing and jury trial and identified the gang members in open court.

"There is no question that we would not have won conviction in this case without Jose, Wendy and young Melissa," said Deputy District Attorney John Colello, who presented them the award.



Deputy District Attorney John Colello (left) and District Attorney Cooley presented Courageous Citizen Awards to Wendy Duran and her daughter Melissa Duran (right). Ms. Duran's daughter Angelina attended the ceremony.

Other Courageous Citizen Award recipients in 2007 and 2008 include:

- Mireya Arias – Took extraordinary steps to testify in support of a childhood friend in a sexual assault case.
- Annabella B. – Assisted in tracking down a man who sexually assaulted her and three other women.
- Kenny Becerra – Helped police capture a strong-arm robbery suspect.
- William Alan Biers – Chased and helped capture two burglars.
- Deputy District Attorney Peter Bliss – Helped save the life of a Pomona police detective during a shootout.
- Genevieve C. – Bravely testified against a serial rapist.
- Christopher N. Chavez – Helped police arrest a hit-and-run driver.
- Jaime Corona – Stopped an assault by an armed inmate against a court bailiff.
- Tony del Valle – Saved the life of an armored vehicle guard.
- Marilyn Ewing – Witnessed and reported a sexual assault by a Los Angeles School Police officer.
- Jorge Godoy – Stopped an assault against a woman by a knife-wielding assailant.
- Alejandro Gonzalez – Testified at two double-murder trials despite a face-to-face threat by the defendant.
- Debra Johnson – Testified against drug dealers who killed her friends and threatened her.
- David H.P. Lee – Assisted an armed robbery victim.
- Frank Leyva – Braved intimidation to report a case of animal cruelty involving a horse.
- Rickey Overton – Stopped the brutal beating of a homeless woman and captured the assailant.
- Chris Rodriguez – Reported a murder-for-hire plot.
- Gerry Schultz – Led police to a hit-and-run suspect.
- Jirayr Setaghian – Stopped a fleeing burglar.
- Shera and Shatishe Smith – Helped save the life of a neighbor who was stabbed multiple times.
- Christopher Smith-Lavezzari – Tackled and detained a Taser-wielding thief at a store.
- Charles Sternberg, Arturo Perez, Michael Williams, Syed Aftab Husain and Djeffrey Sempelsz – Stopped and captured a man who opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle at a church carnival.
- Bradley Taylor – Helped capture a man who was assaulting a woman.
- Richard and Carol Viselli – Aided a man after a driver repeatedly tried to run him down.
- Eula Weir – Assisted in the identification and capture of two burglars.

PEOPLE V. JUAN MANUEL ALVAREZ



Juan Manuel Alvarez was convicted of 11 counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to 11 life terms without the possibility of parole in connection with the fiery pre-dawn crash of a Metrolink train on Jan. 26, 2005.

The crash in Glendale killed 11 people and injured nearly 200 others. In addition to the June 26, 2008, murder convictions, jurors found true a special circumstance of multiple murders, and Alvarez was convicted of one count of arson. Besides the 11 consecutive life sentences, Superior Court Judge William Pounders also imposed a two-year prison term for the arson conviction and ordered that Alvarez pay \$92,109 to the victim restitution fund.

During the trial, Assistant Head Deputy John Monaghan and Deputy District Attorney Cathryn Brougham of the Major Crimes Division presented

evidence that Alvarez drove a Jeep Cherokee onto the tracks and left it there after dousing the sport utility vehicle with gasoline.

He ran from the vehicle but was tracked down through a number of identification cards found at the scene. He contended that he was trying to commit suicide.

But during his sentencing hearing, Judge Pounders told the defendant, "I don't believe for a moment that you meant to kill yourself."

Killed in the crash were Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy James Tutino, 47; the train's conductor, Thomas Ormiston, 58; Scott McKeoun, 42; Manuel Alcala, 51; Leonard Romero, 53; Henry Kilinski, 39; Alfonso Caballero, 62; Julie Bennett, 44; Don Wiley, 58; Elizabeth Hill, 65; and William Parent, 53.

Advancing Justice

PEOPLE V. MICHAEL FRANK GOODWIN

Nearly 19 years after the brutal double murder, a Pasadena jury found Michael Frank Goodwin guilty on Jan. 4, 2007, of two counts of first-degree murder in the killings of auto-racing legend Mickey Thompson and his wife, Trudy, outside their home.

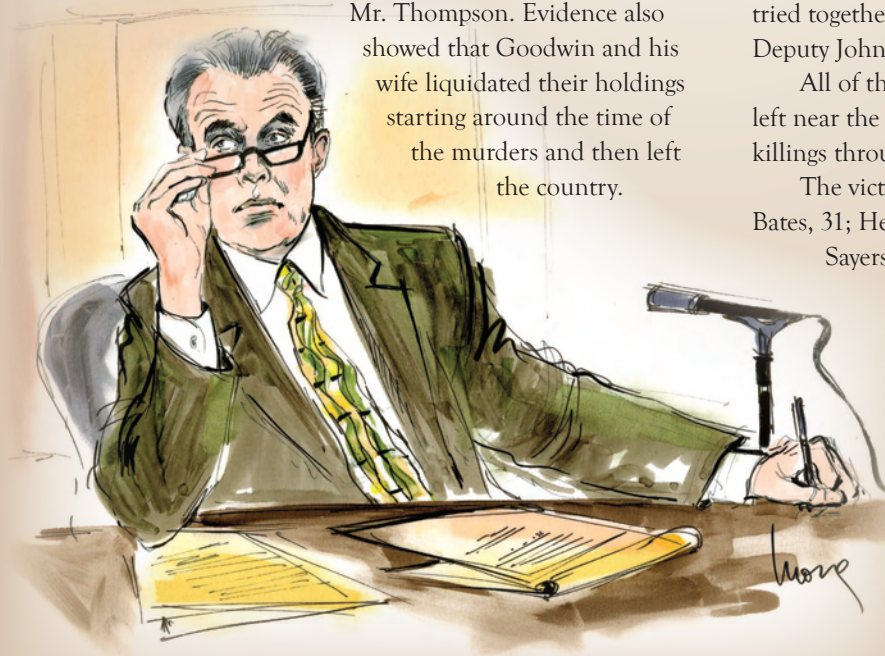
The jury deliberated for little more than five days before finding Goodwin, Mr. Thompson's one-time business partner, guilty in the March 16, 1988, murders. The jury also found true the special circumstances of lying in wait and multiple murders. Goodwin (depicted below) was sentenced to two life terms without the possibility of parole.

"I wish I could look up and touch Mickey and Trudy and say, 'We won!'" said Mickey Thompson's sister, Collene Campbell, who worked for years to bring Goodwin to justice.

During the six-week trial, Head Deputy Patrick Dixon and Deputy District Attorney Alan Jackson of the Major Crimes Division presented evidence that showed Goodwin repeatedly talked about killing Mr. Thompson because he was on the losing end of a bitter business dispute.

Mr. Thompson, 59, and his 41-year-old wife were gunned down as they left for work early in the morning in the hillside San Gabriel Valley community of Bradbury. The killers rode bicycles and escaped. Neither has been identified.

Prosecutors contended during the trial that Goodwin hired hit men to kill Mr. Thompson. Evidence also showed that Goodwin and his wife liquidated their holdings starting around the time of the murders and then left the country.



Mr. Thompson, a racing promoter who was known as the "Speed King" for breaking the 400-mph record at Bonneville Salt Flats, and defendant Goodwin, a motocross promoter, went into business together in the early 1980s.

But evidence presented to jurors showed that the partnership dissolved quickly.

Mr. Thompson sued Goodwin and won a nearly \$800,000 judgment, which Goodwin vowed never to pay. He also threatened to have Mr. Thompson "wasted."

PEOPLE V. IVAN J. HILL

Ivan J. Hill, the convicted "60 Freeway Slayer," was sentenced to death for the murders of six women in 1993 and 1994.

A Los Angeles County Superior Court jury convicted Hill of six counts of murder with special circumstances. The same jury recommended a death sentence on Jan. 2, 2007, and Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler later affirmed that recommendation.

Hill was about to be released from prison in November 2003 when he was charged with the murders of five of the six victims. The murder of the sixth victim was under investigation when the case was filed, and a charge alleging her murder was added later.

Two of the victims were killed in San Bernardino County. Under an agreement with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, all the murders were tried together in Los Angeles County by Assistant Head Deputy John Monaghan of the Major Crimes Division.

All of the victims were strangled, and their bodies left near the Pomona (60) Freeway. Hill was linked to the killings through DNA.

The victims were Betty Sue Harris, 37; Roxanne Bates, 31; Helen Hill, 35; Donna Goldsmith, 35; Cheryl Sayers, 34; and Debra Brown, 33.

In 2008, Hill was charged with two additional murders – the 1986 killing of 35-year-old Lorna Reed in San Dimas and the slaying of 22-year-old Rhonda Jackson in Pomona a year later. DNA analysis linked Hill to the slayings.

PEOPLE V. HELEN LOUISE GOLAY AND OLGA RUTTERSCHMIDT

Two women who the media dubbed the “Black Widows” were convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole in connection with the murders of two homeless men.

Evidence showed that the women, Helen Louise Golay and Olga Rutterschmidt, befriended the men and then murdered them to collect \$2.8 million in life insurance.

Golay was convicted in April 2008 of two counts of first-degree murder with the special circumstances of murder for financial gain and multiple murders. She also was convicted of two counts of conspiracy to commit murder for financial gain. Rutterschmidt was convicted of one count of murder and one conspiracy count.

Their victims were Paul Vados, 73, and Kenneth McDavid, 50. Mr. Vados was killed on Nov. 8, 1999, when he was run over by an automobile in a Westwood alley. The killing went unsolved until investigators connected his case to the June 21, 2005, murder of Mr. McDavid. He was run over by an automobile in a Hollywood alley.

Deputy District Attorneys Truc Do and Robert Grace Jr. of the Major Crimes Division showed evidence that the defendants provided housing for both victims and obtained life insurance policies for them before the murders.

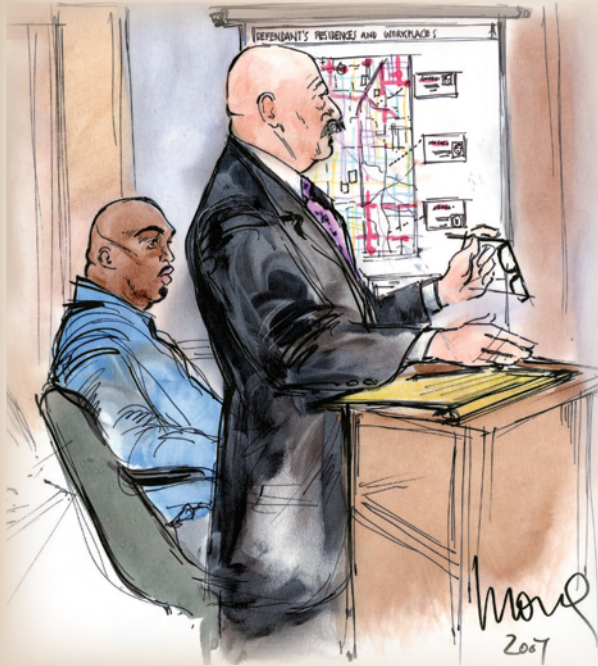


Depicted above: Helen Louise Golay (left) and Olga Rutterschmidt at arraignment in 2006; below: Deputy District Attorney Truc Do (left), and Rutterschmidt and Golay at trial in 2008



Advancing Justice

PEOPLE V. CHESTER DEWAYNE TURNER



Chester Dewayne Turner, believed to be Los Angeles' most prolific serial killer, was sentenced to death in connection with the murders of 10 women over a 10-year period beginning in 1987. He also was convicted on April 30, 2007, of second-degree murder in the death of the unborn child of one of his victims. Jurors recommended the death penalty, and on July 10, 2007, Superior Court Judge William Pounders sentenced Turner to die, saying Turner's actions showed "a level of cruelty rarely seen in murder trials."

Turner (depicted above left with defense lawyer John Tyre) was linked to all 10 of his victims after he underwent a mandatory DNA test following a 2002 conviction for rape. He was in custody when he was linked to the slayings.

The victims were Diane Johnson, 21; Annette Ernest, 26; Anita Fishman, 31; Regina Washington, 27; Andrea Tripplett, 29; Desarae Jones, 29; Natalie Price, 31; Mildred Beasley, 45; Brenda Bries, 37; Paula Vance, 38; and her fetus.

Deputy District Attorneys Robert Grace Jr. and Truc Do of the Major Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

PEOPLE V. ANAND JON ALEXANDER

On Nov. 13, 2008, a Los Angeles County Superior Court jury convicted fashion designer and former reality-TV star Anand Jon Alexander of rape and 13 felony counts of sexual assault involving seven young victims.

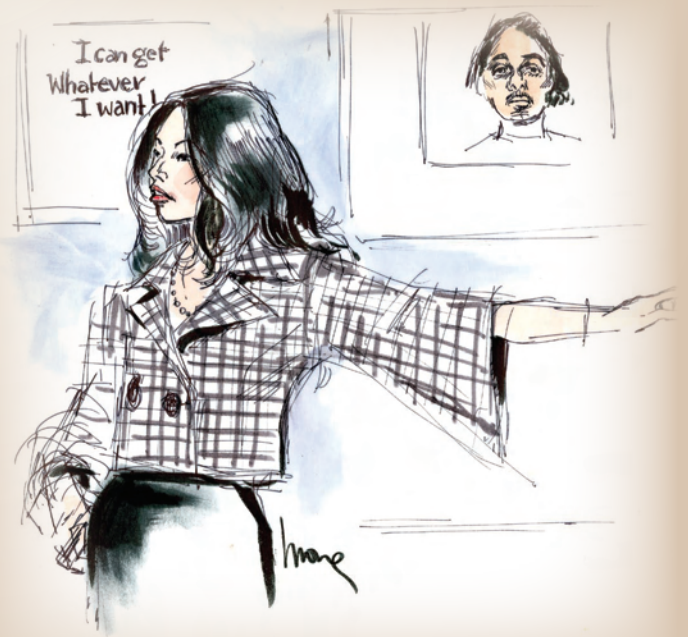
The District Attorney's Office was the first agency to prosecute Alexander, who also was indicted in New York and Texas for similar crimes. He faces life in prison for his crimes.

Alexander, using the professional name Anand Jon, preyed on aspiring models. He used his fashion design business and the Internet, including popular social-networking sites, to lure victims to his apartment in Beverly Hills where the assaults took place.

His victims ranged in age from 14 to 21, a fact which led Deputy District Attorney Frances Young of the Sex Crimes Division to describe him as a "pedophile masquerading as a fashion designer."

"He targeted victims from small towns in other states, such as Wisconsin, who were naïve and unfamiliar with how the modeling business works. He used his celebrity from the TV show to gain credibility," Ms. Young said.

The jury found Alexander guilty of one count of



rape, two counts of sexual penetration with a foreign object, one count of using a minor for sexual acts, seven counts of committing a lewd act upon a child, two counts of sexual battery and one count of attempted oral copulation. He also was convicted of two misdemeanor counts: possession of child pornography and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Before his arrest in March 2007, Alexander designed clothes for Paris Hilton, Oprah Winfrey, Janet Jackson and other celebrities and starred as a guest designer on the hit television show "America's Next Top Model." His growing fame seemed to embolden his sadistic and abusive conduct.

Prosecutors praised the victims for their courage in coming forward and facing courtroom attacks by Alexander's five defense lawyers. "This verdict is for them," said Deputy District Attorney Mara McIlvain, who co-prosecuted the case.

Deputy District Attorney Frances Young (depicted opposite page) co-prosecuted the case against defendant Anand Jon Alexander (seated, below).

PEOPLE V. MICHAEL STEPHEN BAKER

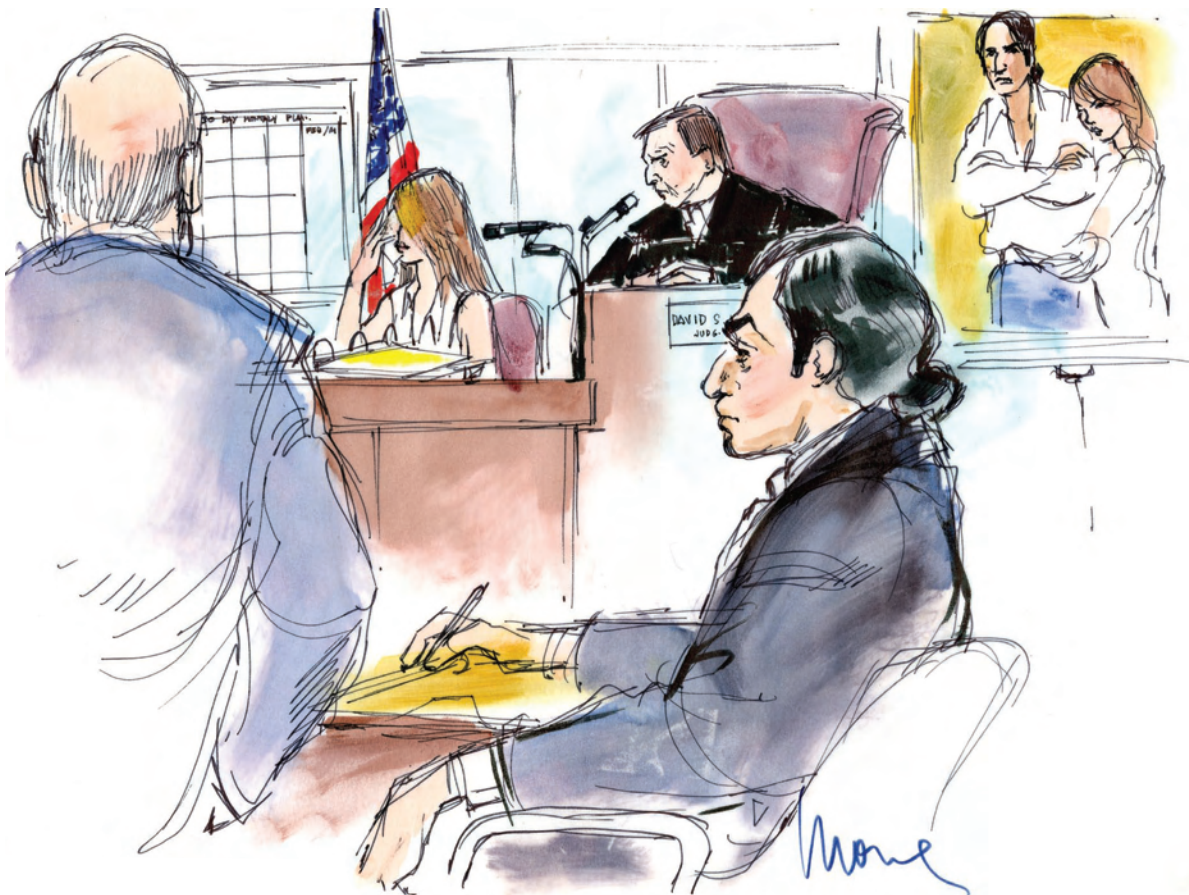
An intensive investigation into sexual abuse by Catholic priests led to the Dec. 3, 2007, conviction of Michael Stephen Baker, a former priest, for molesting two adolescent boys.

Baker was sentenced to 10 years and four months in state prison under the terms of a plea agreement and was ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution to one of the victims.

He was charged originally in 2003 with multiple counts of child molestation. But that case was dismissed after a U.S. Supreme Court decision pertaining to the statute of limitations. The decision also affected hundreds of other Los Angeles County child molestation prosecutions.

In 2006, Baker was charged again in counts involving two additional victims who were molested between 1994 and 1998.

Deputy District Attorney Marc Beaart of the Sex Crimes Division prosecuted the case.





Charles Fredgren • March 2008

Charles Fredgren garnered this award for his work in three successive felony jury trials — interrupted only by his wedding and honeymoon.

The first, *People v. Darron Williams*, was a one-witness, non-injury, drive-by attempted murder. The only witness recanted when he took the witness stand. The jury returned multiple guilty verdicts and found the gang allegation to be true.

The second case, *People v. Rudolph Ellis and Tony Call*, was a 17-day trial. On the morning of Call's son's funeral, Call and Ellis drove into rival gang territory and shot Larry "Big Pook" Harris to death in his vehicle. The case's only eyewitness, Edward Goldsmith, was in the vehicle with Mr. Harris. Mr. Goldsmith, a gang member, refused to cooperate with detectives and was unavailable at trial. His angry, recanting preliminary hearing testimony was read to the jury. Ellis also was tried for the shooting death of Joseph "Bug" Cannon. Again, the case's best witness was unavailable at trial and his recanting testimony at the

Andrea Thompson & Rose DeMattia • April 2008

Andrea Thompson (far right) and Rose DeMattia were lauded for their work in the arduous and harrowing triple-murder trial of Julian Beltran. The defendant killed his common-law wife, Michele Barahona, and his two daughters, Marissa Beltran, 6, and Natalie Beltran, 23 months, by slashing their throats in January 2002. Evidence showed that Marissa struggled mightily with her father before he overwhelmed her.

The defendant was charged with three murders and a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders, and the case was approved as a death-penalty prosecution.

After initially contending the defendant lacked the mental capacity to commit the crimes, the defense later pursued a different course by contending the defendant had an abnormal

brain. Defense counsel also named a prominent expert on filicide, the killing of one's own children, as a defense witness.

Ms. Thompson and Ms. DeMattia spent many hours gaining an understanding of these complicated areas of medicine and psychiatry in preparation to meet these defenses. They consulted with experts throughout the country and read numerous books and studies in the fields.

Just before trial began, the prosecutors had to deal with a scandal at a private laboratory involving the analyst who had tested the blood in this case. Despite this and some unusual jury issues, jurors reached guilty verdicts and found the special circumstance true.

During the penalty phase, the defense presented evidence about the defendant's traumatic and abusive childhood in El Salvador. The defense also called several experts to show the defendant's brain was abnormal



Stephanie Sparagna • May 2008

Stephanie Sparagna was honored for her work in the murder prosecution of David Steinberg and Jeffrey Weaver. This is the second time she has received this award.

The Steinberg and Weaver trial began as a difficult case and only got worse. It stemmed from a more than three-year investigation with thousands of pages of wiretap transcripts and prior inconsistent statements of witnesses. Ms. Sparagna accumulated dozens of trial notebooks, a library of more than 200 audiotapes and in excess of 40,000 pages of discovery. She litigated more than 30 pretrial motions and grappled with issues ranging from wiretaps to witness immunity.

The decomposing body of the victim, Christopher Walsh, was found stuffed in a trash can in a storage locker. Mr. Walsh had a hot temper, was involved in drug dealing and identity theft and liked to brag about his ties to the "Irish mafia."

Deputy District Attorneys of the Month

preliminary hearing was read to jurors. Despite the recantations and nine alibi witnesses, the jury returned guilty verdicts on two counts of first-degree murder against Ellis and one first-degree murder count against Call two days before Mr. Fredgren's wedding.

Mr. Fredgren's third trial began a week after he returned from his honeymoon. *People v. Samuel Osegueda* involved the 2002 murder of 8-year-old Anthony Ramirez, who was killed during a gang shooting in Trinity Park in Los Angeles. The defense counsel's stated strategy was to rush the case to trial – it began within the 60-day period after the preliminary hearing – in an attempt to catch Mr. Fredgren unprepared and without all of his witnesses. That strategy ultimately proved fruitless.

In less than three hours, the jury returned guilty verdicts on one count of murder, two counts of attempted murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder.

In May of 2008, Avimael Nino, another suspect in Anthony's murder, was apprehended. Mr. Fredgren tried Nino, and the jury returned verdicts of murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Mr. Fredgren received his Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Kansas and graduated from Cornell Law School. He joined the District Attorney's Office in 2000 after serving four years as a deputy district attorney in San Bernardino County.

through brain scan evidence and that this mitigated his criminal responsibility.

Ms. Thompson and Ms. DeMattia countered this defense with powerful victim-impact testimony and showed that the brain scan evidence was unreliable. They also established that the defendant had developed an obsession with his common-law wife and presented evidence to show that the defendant feared losing his family and killed as a way of keeping them from leaving him.

The jury returned a verdict of death after three hours. Following a lengthy series of post-conviction challenges, the judge affirmed the jury's recommendation, and Beltran was sentenced to death.

Ms. Thompson received her Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice, Spanish and French from the University of South Dakota and graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1985.

Ms. DeMattia received her Bachelor of Arts in political science from California State University, Northridge, and her law degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1999.



This circumstantial-evidence case depended on the testimony of convicted felons, drug addicts, porn stars and members of a prison gang. Almost every witness had to be given some form of immunity and many were transported from prison. Two witnesses had their throats slashed in custody because they testified. Consequently, most of the witnesses were extremely uncooperative.

The "best" witness was a high-ranking prison gang member. He displayed his swastika and white-pride tattoos to jurors and openly discussed his various criminal activities as a "shot caller" for the gang.

Following a four-month jury trial, Steinberg was convicted of first-degree murder with the special circumstance of murder by means of lying

in wait and other related felony offenses, including the attempted murder of an off-duty Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy. Weaver was convicted of second-degree murder.

Steinberg was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole and two consecutive life terms plus 59 years. Weaver was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison consecutive to a 15-year term.

Ms. Sparagna graduated from Windham College in Vermont and received her law degree from Southwestern University School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1988.

Achieving Excellence

FRANK AND JANE JEMISON AWARDS

Each year, an outstanding district attorney investigator and support staff member are presented with the Jemison Award for distinguished public service. The Jemison Awards were established in 1979 when retired D.A. Investigator Frank Jemison and his wife, Jane – both now deceased – created a trust fund for exemplary employees.

2007 INVESTIGATOR AWARD DAVID ISHIBASHI

Senior Investigator David Ishibashi was honored for his extraordinary efforts in numerous investigations and particularly for tracking fugitives as part of the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force.

One of his most notable contributions to the task force was his investigation into Sunny Ting, a leader in a notorious organized crime syndicate. Ting was arrested in the 1992 murder of a taxi driver, but the case was dropped after a witness fled the country to avoid testifying.

Senior Investigator Ishibashi revived the cold case and learned that the witness who fled to Taiwan had returned to the United States. The witness provided a tape-recorded interview implicating Ting in the killing. Senior Investigator Ishibashi also identified two other witnesses – both crime syndicate members – who linked Ting to the slaying.

Although Ting had been a fugitive since 1999, in less than two months, Senior

Investigator Ishibashi located him living in West Covina under an assumed name with a wife and child.

Ting was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In another extraordinary case, Senior Investigator Ishibashi traveled to Mexico in 2007 to locate and

Senior Investigator David Ishibashi (second from right), members of his family and District Attorney Cooley



Jonathan Chung | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • June 2008

Back-to-back attempted murder prosecutions in 2008 earned Jonathan Chung this award.

Mr. Chung's first case involved five gang members who were attempting to extort money from an Iraq War veteran. The suspects went to the victim's home and threatened to kill his family unless he paid them money. During this confrontation, the defendant, Adolfo Quiroz, produced a semiautomatic pistol. The victim got two knives to protect himself. When one suspect swung a baseball bat at the victim and missed, he told Quiroz to go ahead and shoot the victim. Quiroz fired three shots, hitting the victim once in the stomach and once in the thigh.

The defense argued that Quiroz acted in self-defense because of the victim's knives. To complicate matters, the victim testified that he

had been trained by the U.S. Army in the art of knife throwing and that he would have "gutted" anyone who came near him. Also, the victim's estranged wife tried to blame the victim for the entire incident.

In spite of these difficulties, the jury found Quiroz guilty of premeditated, willful and deliberate attempted murder; the gang and the gun allegations were found true. On May 5, 2008, he was sentenced to 35 years plus two life terms.

In the second case, a man was shot in the thigh while the defendant, Covarsia Dill, demanded money during a residential robbery. Dill also held the gun to the victim's head and pulled the trigger, but the semiautomatic pistol jammed. While Dill exchanged guns with his unidentified accomplice, the victim managed to slam the defendant's hand in a door jamb, and the

apprehend one of the men charged in the El Monte street-race killing of a mother, her 8-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter.

Additionally, Senior Investigator Ishibashi assisted in finding Oscar Gabriel Gallegos in connection with the shooting of two Long Beach police officers in December 2006. Senior Investigator Ishibashi also tracked down Steve Garcia, known as “Loco Steve,” who was one of the Los Angeles Police Department’s 10 most wanted gang fugitives.

Before joining the Bureau of Investigation in 1999, Senior Investigator Ishibashi worked for the Inglewood Police Department for eight years.

A father of three, he coaches youth sports and contributes much of his time to children at the World Shorin-Ryu Karate-Do Association. He has more than 30 years of formal martial arts training and is a third-degree black belt in karate.

2007 SUPPORT STAFF AWARD STEPHANIE MORALES

Since joining the District Attorney’s Office in 1997 as a student worker, Stephanie Morales has made a significant impact.

She worked her way up the ranks to serve as a legal office support assistant II in the Justice System Integrity Division, where she has earned the respect and admiration of both attorneys and investigators for her inexhaustible and industrious nature.

Ms. Morales (above) is known for her strong work ethic, willingness to help others without hesitation, conscientiousness and reliability.

Ms. Morales also has worked in the Media Relations Division where she assisted in fielding reporters’ calls, clipping newspapers and preparing press releases.

Outside the office, Ms. Morales commits her time



and energy to helping others. She has volunteered as a Big Sister to Mayra Carrillo and made an impact on her life.

“We trust Stephanie and thank her for all her time and effort that she has put into Mayra’s life,” the girl’s mother wrote. “We can’t thank her enough. No one has ever forced her to do what she does for Mayra, but we know it comes from her heart.”

Ms. Morales also has volunteered her time at the Special Olympics swim meet in San Dimas and has donated dozens of bags of clothes, shoes, toys and toiletries to Hope Gardens, a shelter for women and children in Sylmar.

She distributes bottles of cool water to homeless people in downtown Los Angeles and routinely collects clothing and blankets from friends and family to drop off at homeless centers.

suspects ran out of the house.

At the start of the trial, the jury was told that the shooting victim was a gang member, an ex-con who was still on parole and a drug dealer. A female victim, whom Dill had choked and threatened during the robbery, recanted much of her earlier testimony and had to be impeached. Dill used an alibi defense, claiming he was in Tennessee at the time of the robbery. He also produced a witness to verify his story.

Still, the jury convicted Dill of all five counts including attempted premeditated, willful and deliberate murder with the gang allegation and the gun allegation found true. Dill was sentenced to 107 years plus four life terms.

Mr. Chung received his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and graduated from Loyola Law School. He worked as a senior law clerk with the District Attorney’s Office from June 2000 to April 2001. He then served as a deputy district attorney in San Bernardino County from 2001 to 2006, when he returned to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.



Achieving Excellence

2008 INVESTIGATOR AWARD LAURIE DEVINE-KNIERIEM

Senior Investigator Laurie Devine-Knieriem was recognized for the resourcefulness and dedication she brings to her investigations.

One of Senior Investigator Devine-Knieriem's most notable cases linked the investigation of the murders of two teenage boys – sons of a deceased Los Angeles police officer – and an insurance fraud investigation involving Timothy Mack and lawyer Angela Wallace.

After a complex and challenging investigation, Senior Investigator Devine-Knieriem discovered Wallace, Mack and 25 others were staging automobile accidents to defraud insurers. The investigation led to more than 147 counts being filed against 25 defendants.

Senior Investigator Devine-Knieriem also directed and organized the fraud investigation to help uncover witness testimony that ultimately led to Mack's conviction on two counts of murder in April 2006. Mack was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

She also was the office's lead investigator in the probe of music producer Phil Spector for the murder

of actress Lana Clarkson and involved in the sexual-assault prosecution of fashion designer Anand Jon Alexander.

Senior Investigator Devine-Knieriem identified, located and interviewed each of the more than 20 sexual assault victims as part of the Alexander investigation. She developed trusting relationships with the victims and successfully documented and secured their testimony. Alexander was convicted on multiple counts of rape and sexual assault on Nov. 13, 2008.

Below: Senior Investigator Laurie Devine-Knieriem (second from right), her family and District Attorney Cooley



Jennifer Chang | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • July 2008

Jennifer Chang was commended for her outstanding work on a 20-year-old murder case.

On Jan. 12, 1988, 24-year-old Edward Verdugo was standing with friends outside of an Azusa apartment building. The group noticed a broken-down station wagon being pushed down the street by another group of men. One of the men from the vehicle threw a glass bottle at Mr. Verdugo and his friends. Mr. Verdugo became upset and a fight was on. Mr. Verdugo and a friend chased three of the men into a liquor store where the fighting continued.

The men from the vehicle ran away while Mr. Verdugo and his friends remained standing outside the store. Minutes later, a pickup truck drove into the parking lot. Two men got out of the truck, both carrying guns. There was

more cursing, and, as Mr. Verdugo walked toward the men, the driver fired two shots. One hit Mr. Verdugo in the heart, and he died immediately. Three witnesses identified the defendant, Regulo Payan, as the shooter.

But the defendant fled to another state. Nearly two decades later, Payan was found living in Utah using a fake name. He ultimately was arrested for kidnapping an ex-girlfriend, and his fingerprints matched the warrant in Mr. Verdugo's murder.

Two of the witnesses who identified the shooter testified at trial. However, the two had become alcoholics and had been living on the streets for almost a decade. The third witness who had identified Payan had been murdered.

Her supervisors praised Senior Investigator Devine-Knieriemi as “tenacious, energetic, focused and disciplined.”

The mother of two boys serves as a Project LEAD (Legal Enrichment And Decision-making) facilitator, teaching the basics of law and the importance of making sound choices to fifth-grade students.

Senior Investigator Devine-Knieriemi also has run for the Bureau of Investigation’s Baker-to-Vegas Relay team.

She joined the Bureau of Investigation in 2000 after five years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

2008 SUPPORT STAFF AWARD JOHN HELBLING

One of the most influential and resourceful paralegals in the state, John Helbling (above right) was honored for the distinguished legal work he has accomplished.

A veteran of the office since 1989, Mr. Helbling developed a reputation for being able to cut through bureaucracy to get things done.

Even prosecutors unfamiliar with him have probably been touched by his accomplishments. Mr. Helbling’s testimony in a case led to the common practice of proving prior convictions by way of criminal history computer printouts. This technique has achieved tremendous efficiency, not just for the office, but for the criminal justice system. His name was repeatedly and favorably cited in a California Supreme Court decision.

He also helped develop and implement procedures to increase the office’s role in dealing with felons released on probation.

Mr. Helbling has been lauded for helping trial deputies determine the true identities of felons who



falsely claimed that they had no criminal record. In one case, while a defendant was seeking release on his own recognizance on an old arrest warrant, Mr. Helbling was able to determine that the defendant had been convicted and sentenced to prison under a different name. The defendant also had a felony charge pending under a third name.

“John’s reputation of excellence and his willingness to help others has spread throughout the criminal justice community,” District Attorney Steve Cooley said in presenting Mr. Helbling the Jemison Award during the November 2008 ceremony.

Outside the office, Mr. Helbling is active in the community. A talented musician, he has directed a community choir that performs at Good Friday church services. He also is involved in his church’s outreach programs to assist people in need.

Although the witnesses remembered the incident, their memories were poor and much different than their original statements. At trial, the witnesses said their group had been drinking beer and smoking marijuana all day before the fight. One witness testified that Mr. Verdugo had a screwdriver and stabbed one of the men from the vehicle during the fight.

Even though Payan fled and had been using two different names, the trial judge excluded consciousness of guilt evidence that Ms. Chang wanted to present. The judge also allowed the defense to impeach the testimony of one eyewitness with a retired officer who never spoke to the witness.

Despite these obstacles, the jury reached a verdict in just two hours and found Payan guilty of first-degree murder with a firearm. He was sentenced to 27 years to life in prison.

Ms. Chang graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Loyola Law School. She joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1999.



Achieving Excellence



MICHAEL P. NOYES HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Michael P. Noyes Humanitarian Award is presented annually to a District Attorney employee who gives significantly of himself or herself by donating personal time and physical, financial and/or emotional support to help another individual or community in need. The award is named after Deputy District Attorney Michael Noyes, who in 2001 donated part of his lung to a girl whose life was threatened by cystic fibrosis.

2007

MONICA GONZALEZ

Monica Gonzalez, an intermediate clerk in the Long Beach Juvenile Office, was recognized for her altruistic work helping communities in Latin America recover after disasters and simply lending a hand when it is needed.

In some cases, the missions were organized by Ms. Gonzalez's church. But "sometimes it was simply Monica and her mother, motivated by tragedies in far away places that were a blip on the evening news to the rest of us," wrote Deputy-in-Charge John Gilligan of the Long Beach Juvenile Office in nominating Ms. Gonzalez for the award.

In 2002, Ms. Gonzalez made four trips to Tijuana, Mexico, to help build an orphanage for 80 children. Twice in 2003, she traveled to Amateca, Honduras, to aid refugees who had their lives turned upside down by

a hurricane. She collected and purchased new and used shoes, shirts, baby clothes and bedding to bring to the storm-damaged area.

In April 2007, Ms. Gonzalez and her mother brought desperately needed supplies to Barranquilla, Colombia, to help in the aftermath of flooding that left thousands homeless.

"Monica is truly an inspiring human being who derives joy from helping people she has never met, but whose suffering she refuses to ignore," Mr. Gilligan added. "It is more than a little humbling to see how much she manages to give with the resources available to her."

"I have never been around anyone as generous, caring and inspiring as Monica Gonzalez," wrote Deputy District Attorney Brian Shirn, who also nominated her.

Ms. Gonzalez joined the office as a student worker in 2001.



Daniel Kinney | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • August 2008

Daniel Kinney was selected for the groundbreaking murder prosecution of Anthony Domio. Domio was an emergency medical technician-certified Los Angeles city firefighter for 15 years. His former captain once remarked to Mr. Kinney that "taking care of people was Tony's forte." Tragically, Domio's caring did not apply to his own 68-year-old mother, Elanie Celestin Domio.

Mrs. Domio was bedridden for the last 10 years of her life with multiple health problems. Three years before his mother's death, the defendant forged her signature on the deed to her home and fraudulently took possession of the property. One month after that, she was admitted to the hospital suffering from neglect. She subsequently was placed in a long-term care facility. The defendant persuaded her to leave the facility against medical advice.

Once the victim was home, the defendant began isolating her. He changed the locks, moved in with her and required family members to make appointments to see her. He frequently failed to honor these appointments. He moved her to a back room of the house and left her alone in that room during the daytime.

2008 EARL “BOB” ACKERMANN

Senior Investigator Earl “Bob” Ackermann was credited for his commitment to helping foster children. Senior Investigator Ackermann and his wife, Bonnie, have opened their home to 12 children since 2002. The children have ranged in age from a 5-month-old to a pregnant 16-year-old. The foster children have stayed in the Ackermann household for periods ranging from four months to 2 1/2 years.

The Ackermanns often take children into their home directly from police custody. Many of the children were removed from homes that were used for drug dealing and prostitution. One was removed from a vehicle involved in a police pursuit. In the Ackermann household, the children were exposed to outdoor family activities, such as canoeing, and were given a safe, loving home during an important time in their lives.

In addition, Senior Investigator Ackermann and his 20-year-old daughter were part of a team that taught Bible studies to 500 children in Kenya in September 2008.

“Bob Ackermann is a genuine man of integrity who has devoted a lifetime to his family and to community,” said Assistant District Attorney Jacquelyn Lacey, in presenting the award to Senior Investigator Ackermann. “Bob shared himself and his home with children who were in need.”



Above: Senior Investigator Earl “Bob” Ackermann and his wife, Bonnie, were honored for helping children. Below: A jubilant Intermediate Clerk Monica Gonzalez accepts her award for helping disaster victims.



On Feb. 10, 2006, the victim phoned a cousin complaining that she was in pain. Several family members rushed to her aid. What they saw was truly horrifying. Mrs. Domio was covered with feces. She had deep sores on her legs that were infested with thousands of maggots.

The defendant told his brother, “You can’t call 911. If they see her like this, I’m going to jail.” The brother did call 911. By the time paramedics arrived, the victim had no measurable blood pressure. Paramedics had to peel her off the bed.

Mrs. Domio went into cardiac arrest and died at the hospital. The cause of death was determined to be sepsis due to infected skin ulcers. Before she died, Mrs. Domio told hospital staff, “I’m here because my son is mad at me because I needed to be cleaned up.”

Based on this evidence, Mr. Kinney charged the defendant with murder. The jury trial lasted 14 days. The defense contended that Mrs. Domio was self-neglecting and had given up the will to live.

Thanks to Mr. Kinney’s dedication, hard work and outstanding trial skills, the defendant was convicted of second-degree murder. This conviction — using the theory of second-degree murder by intentional neglect — is believed to be the first successful prosecution of its kind in California.

Mr. Kinney received a Bachelor of Arts in business economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his Juris Doctor from Whittier Law School. He joined the District Attorney’s Office in 1999.

Achieving Excellence

KEN LAMB DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ken Lamb was considered the Babe Ruth of the District Attorney's Office. He tried 622 felony jury trials over the course of his 25-year career as a prosecutor – most certainly the all-time record in the office, if not the nation.

Mr. Lamb's accomplishments were recognized before his death on Sept. 16, 2008, at the age of 55. Following the recommendation of many in the office, District Attorney Steve Cooley created the Ken Lamb Distinguished Achievement Award.

Its first recipient was its namesake. Mr. Lamb accepted the award at a Sept. 10, 2008, retirement celebration in Long Beach just days prior to his death. The party was attended by more than 200 prosecutors, defense lawyers, police officers and judges.

The Ken Lamb Award will be presented annually to a deputy district attorney who excels in qualities that Mr. Lamb exemplified: leadership, courage, service and mentoring.

Mr. Lamb brought those qualities to the office and accomplished his record number of trials even as he battled cancer.



Over the course of his career, he tried more than 100 homicides and more than 150 sexual-assault and child-abuse cases. He was the go-to person to take on challenging not-guilty-by-reason-of-insanity defenses.

Among his most notable convictions were the cases of "Terminator" murderer Randall Mount, who killed three people that he claimed were cyborgs, and Joseph Brian Socha – known as the

"St. Peter" serial rapist – who claimed he was an angel of God. Socha was convicted in the sexual assaults of five women in 1990.

In 2004, Mr. Lamb mounted a successful prosecution in the sleepwalking defense case of Stephen Reitz, who maintained he attacked his lover, Eva Marie Weinfurter, while acting out a dream.

Before joining the District Attorney's Office, Mr. Lamb served for 10 years with the Los Angeles Police Department.

At the 2008 Jemison Awards Ceremony, a formal presentation of the Ken Lamb Distinguished Achievement Award was made to Mr. Lamb's wife, Deputy District Attorney Debra Lamb (above).



Valerie Salkin | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • September 2008

Valerie Salkin won recognition for her extraordinary effort in winning the convictions of five dangerous gang members in a five-year-old multicrime case that she took over just one month before the trial commenced.

The case arose from an 11-day crime spree in Echo Park and Silver Lake in 2003 by members of a notoriously violent street gang. The five defendants fatally shot two people, shot and injured a third person, committed a home-invasion robbery and conspired to commit additional murders at Marshall High School.

Two of the defendants were heavily armed and on their way to Marshall High when they were arrested.

The case file included 4,000 pages of discovery, 1,000 pages of preliminary hearing transcripts and dozens of hours of interview tapes with thousands of pages of accompanying transcripts.

Another deputy district attorney had handled the case for nearly five years, but he unexpectedly became unavailable just a month before the scheduled trial date. Ms. Salkin was assigned the case and quickly brought herself up to speed, working weekends and nights to prepare. There were so many boxes of files associated with the case that Ms. Salkin moved to a bigger office to accommodate them. Without delay, the trial began in February 2008.

L.A. COUNTY STARS

Three programs received honors from the Los Angeles County Special Talents for Achieving Remarkable Success program (STARS) in 2007 and 2008. The recipients were the Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN), the Rescue Youth Mentorship Program and the Victim-Witness Assistance Elder Abuse Advocacy and Outreach Program. Those programs joined the office's first STARS recipient, Senior Investigator Carlos Villamayor, who received the award in December 2006 for his outstanding work on several public corruption probes.

Under the STARS program, each month the Board of Supervisors recognizes outstanding employees from the county's 39 departments. Those who are honored exemplify exceptional performance in one of the County Strategic Plan organizational goal categories of service excellence, workforce excellence, organizational effectiveness and fiscal responsibility.

The nominations for this recognition focus on the county's philosophy of teamwork and collaboration with emphasis on the shared values of a can-do attitude, accountability, compassion, commitment, integrity, professionalism, respect for diversity and responsiveness.

RESCUE YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Rescue was recognized in 2007 as an exceptional collaboration among the District Attorney's Office, fire departments and school districts. The program targets young people, ages 12 to 14, and attempts to steer them away from illegal or harmful behavior. The program works with students who are not involved in

criminal activity but are frequently absent and tardy at school. Rescue coordinators from the District Attorney's Office interview the student, with parental consent, and match the youth with a firefighter who volunteers to serve as a mentor at a designated fire station near the student's home. The Los Angeles County, Long Beach and Montebello fire departments participate in the program.

Under the program, field trips and other activities that promote individual and group responsibility and teamwork are scheduled throughout the year. Students who complete the program are recognized at an annual graduation ceremony. In 2008, a record number of students – 93 – graduated from the program.

Below: Rescue students and their firefighter mentors volunteer at the annual Fred Jordan Mission Christmas Celebration on Skid Row.



"Valerie put her personal life on hold for several months. Her efforts in this case went above and beyond," Gary Hearnberger, head deputy of the Hardcore Gang Division, wrote in nominating Ms. Salkin.

Nearly all the prosecution's civilian witnesses were gang members, informants and drug dealers whose credibility was suspect. One witness, after being granted immunity, admitted he was the gunman in an unrelated drive-by shooting and that he regularly sold crack cocaine to make a living.

As is often the case with gang crimes, the victims were uncooperative and refused to meet with police and prosecutors. One of the murders was a drive-by shooting with more than a dozen people present. But none of the

victims identified any of the perpetrators, and only one victim identified the vehicle.

Ms. Salkin's tenacity, organization and witness-examination skills paid off. After three days of deliberation, the jury convicted all five defendants of murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder. All received life sentences.

Ms. Salkin is a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she earned a bachelor's degree. She graduated from the University of Southern California School of Law and joined the District Attorney's Office in 1997.

Achieving Excellence

L.A. COUNTY STARS



VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE ELDER ABUSE ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

The program, which provides services to elders and dependent adults who are victims of physical abuse, neglect and financial abuse, was lauded in 2008.

Three specially trained victim services representatives (VSRs) serve as vital links to these particularly vulnerable victims in providing information about the criminal justice system, locating resources and offering support and accompaniment to court. They also help secure services such as crisis intervention, counseling and emergency assistance.

The VSRs are strategically placed to maximize interventions and service delivery throughout the county.

One is assigned to the Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center, which is the second center established in the United States that provides comprehensive interagency consultation and collaboration on elder abuse cases.

The second VSR is assigned to the office's Elder Abuse Section. The third is assigned to the Inglewood Courthouse and is responsible for providing services to the entire south county area.

The VSRs also work closely with deputy district attorneys assigned to the Victim Impact Program in branch and area offices.

Martha Carrillo | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • October 2008

Martha Carrillo was lauded for her hard-fought victories in two sexual-assault cases: the first involved a serial child molester, and the second, a predator who had abused two orphaned girls.

What makes these convictions even more notable is that both trials occurred during the first six months of 2008 when Ms. Carrillo tried six sexual-assault cases, back to back, winning five convictions. In the other case, the jury deadlocked 11-1 in favor of guilt, and many jurors apologized to Ms. Carrillo for the conduct of the one holdout.

The first case involved Carlos Ricardo Brocatto, who for years preyed upon the children of his friends and family members with impunity, leaving a trail of young victims, boys and girls alike.

Brocatto's long, sordid history as a sexual predator finally came to

light after an 11-year-old boy reported the defendant molested him in July 2006 while he was visiting his aunt, who was Brocatto's live-in girlfriend, in Compton.

Upon hearing about the 11-year-old's accusations, the girlfriend's 19- and 21-year-old sons revealed they, too, had been sexually abused by Brocatto. One was molested repeatedly over a 10-year period, starting when he was 5 years old.

As Ms. Carrillo built her case, she tracked down a social worker in Contra Costa County who also knew about Brocatto's history because yet another of his victims, the girlfriend's niece, lived there. Ms. Carrillo worked doggedly to track down other relatives. She found two of Brocatto's own nieces whom he had abused around 1990. One niece was

JUVENILE OFFENDER INTERVENTION NETWORK

The Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) received a STARS award in 2007 for its success in working with first-time juvenile offenders who have committed serious nonviolent offenses. JOIN is offered as an alternative to prosecution. Eligible juvenile offenders are given a chance to avoid charges by sticking to mutually agreed upon rehabilitation conditions. Those conditions are written and monitored by District Attorney's Office hearing officers.

JOIN has developed working partnerships with many local school districts, community-based organizations and the Los Angeles County Probation Department. These organizations have helped streamline the job of monitoring the juvenile offenders.

More than 85 percent of JOIN participants complete the yearlong program and successfully avoid criminal charges. This is achieved at one-tenth the cost of traditional juvenile court processing.

PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY AWARDS

The Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission was established in 1981 by the Board of Supervisors to support programs that enhance the breadth, merit and delivery of county services, create a more efficient use of public resources, reduce public spending or generate revenue. Each year, the commission hosts a Productivity and Quality Awards Program, where it selects 10 outstanding programs to honor for innovation, collaboration, cost efficiency and excellence of service to the county's residents.

Recognizing the District Attorney's Office for its ongoing commitment to high-quality public service, the commission honored seven office programs with a total of nine awards.

2007

In 2007, one program was named to the commission's Top 10 list; two were named to the Million Dollar Club, a designation for programs that save in excess of \$1 million in county spending; two programs received Special Merit plaques; and one received a Traditional plaque.

ABOLISH CHRONIC TRUANCY

At the 21st Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program, the office's Abolish Chronic Truancy (ACT) program received both Top 10 and Million Dollar Club awards in recognition of its success and cost efficiency. Chronic truancy is a known stepping-stone to delinquent and criminal activity. In 2006, it was estimated that up to 100,000 or 10 percent of elementary school-age children in Los Angeles County were chronically truant on an annual basis. The District Attorney's ACT program is a crime prevention/early intervention effort that enforces state compulsory education laws by educating parents about their responsibilities and holding them accountable.

In partnership with elementary schools throughout the county, ACT seeks to increase school attendance by working with families who do not comply with attendance laws through interventions and appropriate referrals. As a last resort, a parent can be prosecuted for failing to send a child to school.

In the 2005-2006 school year, ACT was successful in returning almost 8,000 children to classrooms throughout

willing to cooperate with the prosecution.

Brocatto was convicted on April 8, 2008, of five counts of felony sexual abuse against four victims. He was sentenced to 63 years to life in prison.

In another victory, Ms. Carrillo won the conviction of Faustino Lopez, who repeatedly molested his wife's niece, an orphan, who lived with the couple. Lopez also abused the girl's orphaned sister, but she ran away from home and was not available as a witness.

At trial, Lopez's wife testified for the defense. She contended that she always followed her husband to the bathroom at night, and therefore could be certain that he did nothing inappropriate. She also claimed the victim enticed Lopez by merengue dancing. But through deft cross-examination, Ms. Carrillo illustrated the implausibility of Lopez's wife's claims.

Lopez was convicted of three felony counts and sentenced on Nov. 10, 2008, to 24 years to life in prison.

Ms. Carrillo graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, and from UCLA School of Law. She began her career as a deputy district attorney in Santa Cruz County and joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in 1999.



Achieving Excellence

the county, helping school districts recover more than \$2 million in state reimbursements that are linked directly to daily pupil attendance.

By reducing truancy, ACT also helps save money by avoiding an estimated \$450,000 a year in spending for truant- and dropout-related services, nuisances and crimes.

In addition, the District Attorney's Office has saved more than \$800,000 annually by hiring hearing officers, rather than assigning deputy district attorneys, to work in the program. This move increased the program's outreach while maintaining effectiveness.

The program's overall cost benefit is estimated at more than \$3 million each year.

TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTOTHEFT PREVENTION

The Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP), a multiagency group in which the District Attorney's Office performs crucial advisory and prosecutorial functions, received both a Million Dollar Club award and a Special Merit plaque for its storefront "sting" operation. The awards were given in recognition of the operation's contribution to public safety, improved quality of life and cost benefit to the community.

The operation required a high level of communication and cooperation among agencies including the District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which shared the award.

TRAP detectives set up a sting operation in which they posed as members of a stolen-vehicle fencing ring to

infiltrate the circles of career auto-theft criminals. The undercover operation involved purchasing stolen vehicles from the suspects in order to build airtight cases against them.

When TRAP concluded the operation, 69 suspects had been arrested and 113 vehicles worth \$1.15 million had been recovered. In all, 169 felony charges were filed and prosecuted.

EAST LOS ANGELES PARENT PROJECT

The East Los Angeles Parent Project won a Special Merit plaque in recognition of its contribution to enhancing the quality of life and improving public safety in East Los Angeles neighborhoods. The project, spearheaded by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and launched in October 2005, is a collaboration among the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department, the Juvenile Court and the Boys & Girls Club of East Los Angeles.

The project was founded on the belief that good parenting is crucial to the development of a responsible and law-abiding child, and the project is designed to intervene before parents lose control of their troubled and wayward teen – and before the teen slips into a life of gangs, drugs and serious crime.

It seeks to teach parenting skills, including effective communication and exercise of authority, and encourages parents to become better role models for their children who are at risk.

As of January 2009, 952 parents had graduated from the program, many reporting progress at home in dealing with their kids. One mother said she was able to get her



Marilyn Seymour | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • November 2008

Marilyn Seymour was chosen for her stellar work in the retrial of a double-murder case that featured two defendants and a maze of conflicting statements and testimony from defendants and witnesses alike.

Further complicating the retrial, one of the defendants, Julio Perez, also was being tried for a separate attempted robbery that occurred four months before the murders and did not include his murder co-defendant Eric Sanford.

Despite the mind-boggling plethora of facts, evidence and witness statements stemming from both crimes, Ms. Seymour quickly mastered the complicated cases and developed a winning strategy.

In the attempted robbery on July 26, 2006, Perez, Adam Loza and seven others, including four juveniles, were riding in a vehicle when they stopped at a mini-mart in West Los Angeles. They bought gas and attempted to have one of the juveniles steal a case of Corona beer.

When a store clerk confronted the juvenile, the youth left without the beer. Two members of Perez's crew then stormed in and assaulted the clerk. Perez and Loza pelted the store with bottles. The Perez crew scattered when they heard sirens, evading arrest at that time. The worst was yet to come.



Deputy District Attorney John Carlos Tosello conducts parenting classes for the East Los Angeles Parent Project.

son out of a gang by the 10th class, and after listening to all her son's musical records and viewing all his video games, she dumped all the inappropriate materials directly into a trash truck.

ELDER ABUSE FORENSIC CENTER

The Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center received a Traditional plaque in recognition of its efforts to improve the quality of life and services for vulnerable elders and dependent adults who have been victims of abuse or neglect. The center is a collaboration among the Community and Senior

Services Department, the District Attorney's Office, the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, the USC Keck School of Medicine, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Sheriff's Department and other agencies.

Opened in January 2006, the center provides a coordinated approach for forensic evaluation, medical care, counseling and victim services as well as consultation on and prosecution of elder- and dependent-adult-abuse and neglect cases.

In its first year of operation, the center reviewed more than 100 cases, resulting in 36 referrals to the Office of the Public Guardian, which grants conservatorships for elders and dependent adults deemed incapable of handling their own affairs. This is a vital service that protects the rights and interests of a vulnerable population.

On Nov. 4, 2006, Perez and Loza teamed up with Sanford and killed two clerks at a gas station mini-mart in Carson. The store's owner arrived at 5 a.m. to find his employees, Eduardo Roco and Esther Arteaga, shot to death near the cash register inside the glass-enclosed cashier's booth.

Cameras inside the gas station were not working, but a surveillance tape from a neighboring business showed the trio's Ford Explorer pass the gas pumps and then park behind the mini-mart.

Perez got out of the vehicle and opened the hatchback, where Sanford joined him and appeared to grab an item from inside the vehicle, the tape showed. Sanford then walked toward the mini-mart with something heavy in his right hand, followed by Loza, who had placed a

hooded sweatshirt over his head. In less than two minutes, Sanford and Loza reappeared, running from the store toward the Explorer.

In the first trial, Sanford testified and fingered Loza as the shooter. Loza was convicted, but the jury deadlocked on the charges against Sanford. Perez was not tried the first time.

In the second trial, Ms. Seymour won convictions of both Sanford and Perez for the murders, and of Perez for the attempted robbery. They each were sentenced to 50 years to life in prison.

Ms. Seymour graduated from California State University, Long Beach, and received her law degree from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1985.

Achieving Excellence

2008

In 2008, one program received a Top 10 Award, one received a Traditional plaque, and one received a Certificate of Recognition.

PICO RIVERA STATION VANDALISM ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The Pico Rivera Station Vandalism Enforcement Team was honored with a Top 10 Award at the 22nd Annual Productivity and Quality Awards ceremony.

The team was recognized for its collaborative approach and swift, effective action to combat the destructive and dangerous graffiti crime problem in the city of Pico Rivera. It is a joint effort by Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department, the Probation Department and the Department of Public Works, who shared the award.

The team's creation was sparked by a tragic murder. On Aug. 10, 2007, Pico Rivera grandmother Maria Hicks was gunned down after she honked her car horn and flashed her car headlights at a tagger she saw defacing a wall in her neighborhood. This cruel and senseless killing illustrated that graffiti vandalism is a serious crime and threat to society – not a mere nuisance.

By taking a zero-tolerance approach to graffiti and vandalism, the team's enforcement efforts led to more than 160 arrests in the first six months of the pilot program, with charges filed in 100 percent of those cases. The District Attorney's Office obtained a 100-percent

conviction rate in the initial round of prosecutions.

In many cases, the evidence was so overwhelming that defendants chose to plead guilty. Many juvenile offenders and their parents were referred to counseling and other programs designed to prevent recidivism.

As the team pounced on vandals and taggers, violent crime dropped 20 percent in Pico Rivera and 23 percent in the nearby unincorporated area of West Whittier, showing a related benefit from the vandalism crackdown.

CONSUMER FRAUD SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Consumer Fraud Special Investigations program was honored with a Traditional plaque for its contribution to identifying and prosecuting fraudulent businesses preying on county residents and preventing future fraudulent schemes and rip-offs. The District Attorney's Office paired with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs in July 2006 to launch this program designed to deter fraud, educate the public about prevalent scams and obtain justice for victims who have been swindled.

Deputy district attorneys have worked closely with investigators from the Department of Consumer Affairs, helping them hone their skills to gather the kind of evidence that will stand up in court and result in convictions.

In the first two years of the program, the department completed 16 special investigations that resulted in criminal and civil prosecutions. Prosecution of these cases tallied \$3.8 million in court-ordered restitution and penalties, prison time for dozens of scam artists and extensive media coverage warning citizens about the dangers of similar scams.



Janis Johnson | Deputy District Attorney of the Month • December 2008

Janis Johnson was recognized for the exceptional trial record she garnered in the Airport Branch Office, including successfully prosecuting a number of high-publicity cases.

Ms. Johnson headed the 2007 prosecution of Hector Marroquin Jr. and Pablo Cruz, who were on trial for a residential robbery and gang activity. Marroquin had political connections, and the defense witness list included politicians and judges. The victim and some prosecution witnesses felt intimidated by the defendants and their political clout.

Both Marroquin and Cruz worked for a nonprofit organization called Networks Organized for Gang Unity and Neighborhood Safety (NO GUNS), which was headed by Marroquin's father. While NO GUNS touted itself as working to end gang and gun violence, it actually was used to recruit for a notorious street gang, which included the Marroquins and Cruz.

Marroquin's father was prosecuted separately for the unlawful sale of assault weapons, pleaded no contest and was sentenced to eight years in prison in 2008.

Ms. Johnson sought a grand jury indictment against Marroquin and Cruz to avoid delays and allay witness fears. In the midst of their 2007 trial, the defendants pleaded guilty. Marroquin was sentenced to nine years in prison while Cruz was sentenced

CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The District Attorney's Code Enforcement Section received a Certificate of Recognition for its efforts to improve the quality of life in unincorporated areas of the county where there had been difficulty addressing complaints and correcting violations of building, sanitation, animal-welfare and other codes. Code violations, if left uncorrected, tend to lessen the overall respect for the law in an area, reduce property values and can be a gateway to more serious crime.

In 2005, the Board of Supervisors asked the District Attorney's Office to help mitigate code violations, including illegal dumping, outside storage of junk and salvage materials, unpermitted construction, fire hazards and other conditions that were posing health and safety risks. Other agencies had been stymied in their efforts to enforce codes in some unincorporated areas, in part, due to uncooperative and hostile residents, criminal activity and rural conditions that made for difficult access.

The District Attorney's Office launched the Code Enforcement Section with three deputy district attorneys and four district attorney investigators. Later, it was expanded to four prosecutors and 16 investigators,

including one lieutenant.

Members of the section staff 12 Nuisance Abatement Teams, in which they join with three or more other agencies, such as the Los Angeles County departments of Animal Care and Control, Public Works, Public Health Services and Regional Planning to inspect properties for a wide variety of violations. The district attorney investigators plan and monitor these missions to help insure the safety of inspectors. The above agencies, along with the Sheriff's Department, shared this award.

Since the section was formed in 2005, teams have inspected 14,781 properties and discovered numerous violations ranging from 2,500 roosters being bred for illegal cockfighting; children living in unheated dwellings without food, bedding or electricity; counterfeit DVDs and clothing; the attempted sale of unpasteurized milk mixed with grain alcohol; and illegal trailer parks. These inspections have led to numerous citations and felony prosecutions. They also have brought help to children and elderly people who were found living in deplorable conditions.



to 16 years behind bars.

In a second case, Ms. Johnson was able to secure convictions in the robbery, kidnapping and sexual assault trial of Denson Henderson and Jovanny P. Theus. One of her greatest challenges was gaining the confidence of the victim who believed she had been abused by the system and ignored by the courts. This took many long nights and weekends, but Ms. Johnson earned her trust.

The defendants had separate juries and separate defenses. Theus claimed the victim consented to have sex with him, while Henderson claimed he was in Las Vegas when the crime was committed. On the last day of trial, Henderson's estranged wife was called to testify that she was with him in Nevada. Ms. Johnson scrambled to obtain records from the

wife's employer that showed she was at work on the day in question and could not have been in Nevada.

The juries convicted the defendants in less than three hours. Theus was sentenced to five life terms with a minimum 245 years in state prison before he is eligible for parole. Henderson was sentenced to seven life terms with a minimum 352 years in prison before parole eligibility. The victim repeatedly proclaimed that Ms. Johnson helped renew her faith in the justice system.

Ms. Johnson received a Bachelor of Science at the University of California, Los Angeles, and received her law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1995.

Achieving Excellence

2007-2008 RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The awards listed below represent accomplishments, achievements or recognition of District Attorney employees or units for work performed in the criminal justice system.

District Attorney Steve Cooley

Humane Society of the United States,
Humane Law Enforcement Award, 2007

Pasadena Bar Association, Donald R. Wright Distinguished
Service Award, 2007

California Newspaper Publishers Association,
Freedom of Information Award, 2008

Los Angeles Police Historical Society, Jack Webb Award, 2008
California Narcotic Officers' Association, Prosecutor of the Year, 2008

Peter Bliss/2007

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs,
Special Recognition Award

California Attorney General's Office,
Citizen Certificate of Valor for Zone 1

Pamela Booth/2007

Nicole Parker Foundation for Children, honored for dedication to the
safety of children

Richard Burns/2007

National College of District Attorneys, Distinguished Faculty Award

Mary Cenovich, Clint Dragoo and Joel Grenier/2007

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs,
Exemplary Performance Award

David Demerjian/2007

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section,
Prosecutor of the Year

Patrick Dixon/2007

National District Attorneys Association, Lifetime Home Run Hitter

Paula Fong, Kevin Lavo and Ron Valdivia/2007

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Medal for Bravery Exemplary
Performance Award

Janet Fox/2007

Los Angeles Police Commission, Distinguished Service Medal for
Outstanding Service to the Community

Eric Harmon/2007

U.S. Attorney's Office, Recognition for Prosecution and Conviction of
Hector Marroquin Sr., gang member

Walter Kline/2007

California Attorney General's Police Officer Certificate of Commendation
for Outstanding Performance

Deborah Knaan/2007

Humane Society of the United States, Humane Law Enforcement Award

Terrie Tengelsen/2007

City of Bellflower, Bellflower Recognizes Acts of Valor and Outstanding
Service (BRAVO)

District Attorney's Digital Archive/2007

California State Association of Counties, Honorable Mention

Project Safe Neighborhoods: Anti-Gang Initiative/2007

California State Association of Counties, Honorable Mention

Proposition 69 Implementation Task Force/2007

California State Association of Counties, Honorable Mention

District Attorney's Office/2007

Steve Cooley

William Hodgman

Lowell Anger

David Ishibashi

Alex Baroian

Darren Levine

Scott Carbaugh

Maria Ramirez

California Narcotic Officers' Association, Region III,
Recognition of District Attorney's Coordinated Efforts Regarding Shootings
of Long Beach Police Officers Roy Wade and Abe Yap

Public Integrity Division Investigators/2007

Rob Allas	Kevin Lavo
Tony Avila	Dave Maro
Debora Bailey	Kimberly Michael
Mark Cenovich	Phillip Miyazaki
Chris Costanza	Karen Pewitt
Greg Davis	Pete Pormalis
Steve DePrima	Julie Silva
Jeff Edwards	Lu'Wana Sodemann
James Fontenette	Mary Kay Stephens
Brian Hale	Joyce Tobe
Greg Icamen	Carlos Villamayor

Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, Centurion Award,
Outstanding Recognition for Integrity in Government

Victoria Adams/2008

Nicole Parker Foundation for Children, honored for dedication to the
safety of children

Emily Baker/2008

Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Police Commission Certificate
of Commendation

Steven Belis/2008

California Narcotic Officers' Association,
Major Investigation of 2007

Christopher Briggs/2008

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Exemplary Performance
Award

Gretchen Ford/2008

Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, "Z" Award

Ronald Goudy/2008

California District Attorney Investigators' Association,
Prosecutor of the Year

Robert Grace Jr./2008

Los Angeles County Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section,
Prosecutor of the Year

Maureen Green/2008

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Star Certificate

Elizabeth Hardine/2008

Attorney General Edmund G. Brown, Letter of Recognition

Daewon Kim and Britton Schaefer/2008

FBI Director's Certificate

Walter Kline/2008

California District Attorney Investigators' Association,
Doug McClure Investigator of the Year

Albert MacKenzie/2008

Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, Prosecutor of the Year

Danette Meyers/2008

Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Diversity Award

Mary Murray, Simone Shay and Shelly Torrealba/2008

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Commendation for aiding and
comforting crime victims

David Schorr/2008

Florence-Firestone Criminal Abatement Task Force, Commendation

Gary Schram/2008

Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, Centurion Award,
Sustained Distinguished Service

Robert Serna/2008

West Covina Police Department, Recognition for Prosecution of
People v. Steven Conklin

Carrie Louise Smith/2008

Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Police Commission
Certificate of Commendation

Don Tamura/2008

Jack O'Connell, Superintendent of Department of Education,
Recognized for Model Student Attendance Review Board

Code Enforcement Section/2008

Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, Centurion Award,
Excellence in Community Policing

East Los Angeles Parent Project/2008

California State Association of Counties, Honorable Mention
National Association of Counties, Achievement Award

Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Team (Yvette Hartwell)/2008

Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County, Centurion Award,
Exceptional Cooperation

U.S. Attorney's Office, Commendation for fighting crimes against children

Justice System Integrity Division Investigators/2008

Karen Barreras	Michael Kim
Javier Beltran	Phillip Miyazaki
Eric Cheung	Gilbert Roldan
Deborah Hayes	Susan Wiggins

Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs,
Exemplary Performance Award

QUICK FACTS:

2007

2008

Annual Budget	\$306,958,000 2006/07 Fiscal Year	\$335,558,000 2007/08 Fiscal Year
Attorneys	1,015	1,058
Investigators	277	294
Support and Clerical Staff	808	819
Total Employees	2,100	2,171
Felony Cases Filed	66,454	64,156
Misdemeanor Cases Filed	131,334	138,058
Population Served	10,275,914	10,363,850
Cities Served	88	
Police Agencies Served	47	

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Page 8 by Mike Havstad, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Page 9 by Sean Hiller, Torrance Daily Breeze
Page 22 by the Los Angeles Animal Cruelty Task Force

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This report submitted as required by Los Angeles County Ordinance No. 4099, Section 770.



DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOCATIONS



- 2 Airport
- 3 Alhambra
- 4 Antelope Valley
- 5 Compton
- 6 Long Beach
- 7 Norwalk
- 8 Pasadena
- 9 Pomona
- 10 San Fernando
- 11 Torrance
- 12 Van Nuys

- 13 Bellflower
- 14 Beverly Hills
- 15 Burbank
- 16 Downey
- 17 East Los Angeles
- 18 El Monte
- 19 Glendale
- 20 Inglewood
- 21 Lynwood
- 22 Malibu
- 23 Metropolitan
- 24 Santa Clarita
- 25 West Covina
- 26 Whittier

- 27 Antelope Valley
- 28 Compton
- 29 Eastlake
- 30 Inglewood
- 31 Kenyon
- 32 Long Beach
- 33 Los Padrinos
- 34 Pasadena
- 35 Pomona
- 36 Sylmar